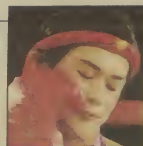


**Military discharges more gay linguists**  
Despite need for Arabic translators,  
26 specialists get the boot under DADT.  
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**Honoring MLK's legacy**  
Bay Area's Men of All Colors  
Together gets back on track.  
page 12



**Tranny with a kick**  
'Beautiful Boxer's  
true story on film.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 3 • 20 January 2005

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## Bush dances around marriage amendment

by Bob Roehr

President Bush will not press for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, he told the *Washington Post* in an exclusive interview conducted aboard Air Force One and published on January 16, just days before his inauguration. But even before the article was published the White House was seeking to "clarify" its position.



President Bush

"Senators have made it clear that so long as DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act] is deemed constitutional, nothing will happen. I'd take their admonition seriously. ... Until that changes, nothing will happen in the Senate," Bush told the *Post*.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan clarified the president's position as being "willing to spend political capital" on the issue, but that for practical reasons that is not likely to be enough to achieve the two-thirds vote required to pass a constitutional amendment.

Social conservatives were apoplectic at the thought of anything less than kamikaze-like dedication to their cause. Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, pointed to the "values voters" who overwhelmingly supported Bush in November.

"Freshly equipped with the demands of the American people, the president should lead the United States Senate in moving ahead to check the pending judicial assault on marriage," he said.

Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Patrick Guerriero "is hopeful that the president's comments recognizing the lack of support for the anti-family Federal Marriage Amendment will result in a second term agenda that can concentrate on much needed reform: reform of Social Security, reform of the tax system, reform of immigration, and reform of our approach to combating HIV/AIDS."

Gay pundit Andrew Sullivan wrote on his blog, "The FMA has gone un-"  
page 14 ►



Bank of America includes a question about sexual orientation on its employee survey.

## Inclusion of sexual orientation in BofA survey sparks debate

by Matthew S. Bajko

News that Bank of America is asking its employees about their sexual orientation in an internal survey is sparking mixed reaction to whether companies should collect such information on their work forces.

Question 64 of an online job satisfaction survey the company is asking its more than 175,000 employees to fill out asks respondents to "indicate which one of the following best describes yourself" and then lists the following choices: heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual, transgendered.

As detailed by *San Francisco Chronicle* business columnist David Lazarus in his Saturday, January 15 *Lazarus at Large* column, some BofA employees and outside human resource professionals object to the bank's asking about sexual orientation. Citing privacy concerns and questioning how the information will be used, the sources criticized BofA for including the question on the survey.

The column reported that even though the survey is anonymous, some employees fear the company will trace back their answers to their workstations if they fill it out during work hours, as reportedly BofA is encouraging its workers to do.

One BofA worker, who asked not to be identified in the piece for fear of reprisals from his bosses, asked, "What are you going to do, group African Americans together in terms of their opinions? Or group gay people together?"

Ethan Winning, a Walnut Creek management consultant, is quoted  
page 14 ►

## Leno undeterred by Schwarzenegger's comments on same-sex marriage bill

by Cynthia Laird

State Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) told the *Bay Area Reporter* Monday, January 17 that he remains committed to passage of his marriage bill and is not deterred by remarks made by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger that hint he opposes the legislation.

"The governor has been inconsistent with his public comments regarding marriage equality," Leno said.

He was referring to statements Schwarzenegger made to the *San Francisco Chronicle* editorial board last Friday. During that meeting, the governor said he supports current California law that provides registered domestic partners with nearly all the state rights, benefits, and responsibilities of marriage.

"I feel most comfortable with the way it is right now," Schwarzenegger told the *Chronicle*.

Last month, Leno introduced his Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act. Known as AB19, the bill would amend



Assemblyman Mark Leno, left, will push for his marriage bill; Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger likes the current domestic partners law.

the state's family code to define marriage as a civil contract between two persons, instead of between a man and a woman. In addition, the legislation would add a new section to code reaffirming in statute that religious institutions are free to exercise their religion without interference from the state and would not be forced to perform ceremonies that are not in keeping with their beliefs.

Schwarzenegger has made several comments on marriage since becoming governor. Last year, shortly after Mayor Gavin Newsom ordered San Francisco officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, Schwarzenegger told a national television audience that there could be riots in the streets if the weddings continued. Less than two weeks later, the governor was on NBC's *Tonight Show* telling host Jay Leno that he could accept gay marriage and it would be "fine with me" if voters or the courts changed state law to permit the unions.

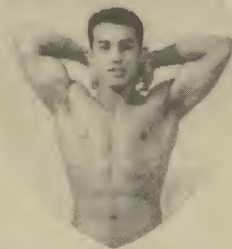
Last June, the governor told a crowd of lunchtime patrons at a Sacramento-area restaurant that he "didn't care

one way or the other" about gay marriage. "He has said he has no problem" with same-sex marriage, Mark Leno said Monday. "Now, he'd prefer this bill not get to his desk. It shouldn't deter us one bit. Once it's there, we'll have a chance to sit and talk with him and inform him that our domestic partner law doesn't provide equality."

page 14 ►

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# Spanjian, Wiener elected as Alice Club co-chairs

by Zak Szymanski

The membership of Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club last week selected new co-chairs, with Laura Spanjian re-elected to her second term, and Scott Wiener elected to his first year in the position.

Spanjian, 33, is assistant general manager for external affairs of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and Wiener, 34, is a deputy city attorney and Democratic Central Committee member. Together they will lead one of the city's most influential political organizations, both with their own ideas about how to build upon the club's recent achievements.

"I really want to build on what Rich Kowalewski has done; he's a pretty phenomenal leader and I think it really strengthened the club," said Wiener, referring to the club's outgoing co-chair who served two terms.

Since Alice switched to a co-chair leadership structure, one person has usually been elected to a second term, while the officer with the most seniority has made room for new blood. Wiener, occupying the latter role, said he feels honored to be a co-chair with Spanjian, who is "a great leader and a real pleasure to work with."

In recent years, said Wiener, Alice has been "incredibly consistent and strong in being active in all sorts of different elections and being a key player in the community."

Like Spanjian, Wiener said he is looking forward to the relative down time of the upcoming year, which includes only one election for public officers, when City Attorney Dennis Herrera and city Treasurer Jose Cisneros are up for



New Alice co-chairs Laura Spanjian, left, and Scott Wiener

re-election next November. Cisneros, who was appointed by Mayor Gavin Newsom to the post last year, will face voters for the first time.

"We've had so many elections in the last few years that this year may be an opportunity for the club to think about new ways of operating; we can still be very focused on elections, but also on other areas and issues," said Wiener, adding that he would like to see the club get more involved with neighborhood groups such as the antiracism group And Castro for All, or work with Supervisor Bevan Dufty on improving the Castro District.

"I think it is an important thing for the club to get involved in quality of life issues, which are political issues," said Wiener.

Spanjian said she is most proud of the club's recent outreach and coalition building, from its cooperation with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club to

its efforts at increasing diversity on the board. Recently, Alice joined with the Milk Club in endorsing and campaigning for the Milk Club's openly transgender Robert Haaland in the District 5 supervisor's race. Alice then went on to ask Haaland and Miguel Bustos, an unsuccessful candidate for District 9 supervisor, to join its board, and both agreed. Other new board members include two youth members, and more women and people of color, said Spanjian.

"We reached out to people we worked closely with, and we got some really great board members that reflect the diversity we are trying to achieve," she said.

Another recent accomplishment of the club is the creation of the Emeritus Board, an idea of Kowalewski's, she said, which allows people to remain active without the same commitments, while allowing room for new members.

Like Wiener, Spanjian said the upcoming year would provide Alice with some time to work on community relations outside of heated political races.

"We have a couple of citywide elections coming up which are probably not going to be contentious, so it's a good opportunity to work on our relationships in different ways," she said. ▼

For more information, visit [www.alicebtoklas.org](http://www.alicebtoklas.org).

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Castro bar dispute flares up

by Matthew S. Bajko

**A** Castro bar owner accused of discriminating against minority patrons finds himself once again in the hot seat after he withdrew — at the last minute — an application he had pending before the city's Entertainment Commission.

Les Natali, owner of the Badlands and Detour, had requested an entertainment license for the Pendulum, the Castro's only bar catering to gay African Americans. The commission had been set to hear Natali's request at its Tuesday, January 18 meeting.

In response, And Castro For All filed a request for the commission to deny Natali the license for the Pendulum, asserting that he has violated numerous local and state civil rights laws. The group, which formed last year to protest what it says is Natali's discriminatory business practices, has been sparring with the bar owner since last June, when it came forward with its allegations.

Due to the group's efforts, Natali now faces investigations by the city's Human Rights Commission — which last week ended attempts to mediate the claims — as well as the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the state Department of Fair Employment and Housing. His attempts to purchase the Pendulum have also been stymied due to the multiple investigations.

Natali did not return a call seeking comment by press time Wednesday. In the past, Natali has



Entertainment Commissioner Audrey Joseph at Tuesday's hearing.

stated he does not discriminate against anyone, whether employees or patrons, and said he welcomed having a chance to clear his name.

Leaders of AC4A said this week that following the ABC's refusal to transfer the Pendulum's license to Natali, he maneuvered recently to become president of Pendulum Inc., the current company that owns the Pendulum and its ABC license. However, AC4A said the ABC has nonetheless decided to treat this new move as a transfer application still pending investigation.

ABC spokesman John Carr confirmed Wednesday that Natali had filed his new request regarding the Pendulum license on December 16, 2004 and that it is still under investigation

"I was told that any community protests or concerns on the old application transferred to the new application," said Carr. "As for a timeline on the new application, it is really difficult to say. Typically it could run for a non-protest application 30 to 60 days. With this one being protested it probably will take longer."

AC4A, which had already planned to attend Tuesday night's Entertainment Commission meeting, said it learned only hours before the start of the meeting that Natali had withdrawn his application. It labeled the move "devious" and another example of Natali attempting to evade public scrutiny. Members of the group opted to speak during the commission's public comment period to voice their concerns.

Calvin Gipson, representing Black Rap, another group organizing to see Natali's permit be denied, told the commission that it was deeply disappointing that Natali was not there, but that he was not surprised, as he had been evading sit-down discussions for the past year.

While he supports queer businesses, Gipson said, "Just as it was wrong to be denied a meal at the Woolworth counter, just as it was wrong to be forced to sit in the back of the bus, it was wrong for Les Natali to deny African Americans access, to treat us as a lesser race."

In a statement released prior to the meeting AC4A organizer John Newsome said, "Les Natali's continued evasion of public scrutiny

page 19 ►



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# Renter steps in as Castro's biggest booster

by Matthew S. Bajko

As he begins his term as president of the Castro's neighborhood group, Adam Hagen sees boosting membership and tackling development issues as his top goals.

Elected last fall to lead the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, the city's oldest neighborhood group, Hagen said he is mindful of its past as he moves the organization forward.

"EVPA was founded in the 1880s and I feel a sense of responsibility for taking care of an organization that old as well as maintaining the character and vibrancy of the neighborhood," he said.

Hagen's term began January 1. A member since 2002, he joined the board last year and chaired the group's planning committee. As president, Hagen wants to increase membership, which stands at around 130, and institute social activities in addition to monthly meetings.

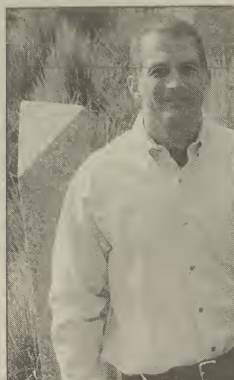
"I would like for members to have more social interactions," said Hagen, 45, a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker who moved to San Francisco from Los Angeles in 2000.

As a renter on Alpine Terrace, Hagen's presidency marks the first time since 2002 that a homeowner has not lead the group. He would like to see more renters become active in EVPA, noting the group is for all residents, whether they own or rent, and is comprised of both LGBT and heterosexual members.

"EVPA really tries to be as inclusive as possible," said Hagen, who is gay.

EVPA's boundaries run from Dolores Street on the east, Duboce on the north, Roosevelt and Upper Market streets on the west, and 21st Street on the south. It costs \$15 for individuals and \$24 for households to join.

The group mails out a monthly newsletter and acts as a voice for Eureka Valley residents on various issues of concern to the neighborhood. Anyone looking for city ap-



EVPA's Adam Hagen

proval for projects or permits for construction usually consults with the group and asks it to send a letter of support.

For that reason, Hagen said he sees development as being one of the key issues over the next year. A supporter of District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, he favors Dufty's Castro Renaissance plans as being good for the neighborhood and would welcome seeing the GLBT Historical Society build a permanent home alongside the Eureka Valley branch library.

"I think it is a great idea. It is a logical place to put it," said Hagen, who added he has not taken a position on whether the current building should be demolished or an addition should be constructed.

He also would like to begin a dialogue between 17th Street residents and the owner of a dilapidated Victorian near Pink Triangle Park. The project has been in limbo for years, with neighbors objecting to demolition of the house and the developer sparring with city planners on how to add condo units while preserving the building's facade.

"Nothing is happening. It is sort of a blight on the neighborhood," he said. "I don't care so much if it is single family housing or condos, I just want to see a resolution."

As a real estate agent, he said the vacant lot at the intersection of Market and Noe streets "is a shame, such a waste. It is a premiere location." As others have suggested, Hagen also endorsed the idea of a land swap with the church that owns the site and another entity.

"Whether it be a park or a structure I don't have a preference for. If it could be a park that would be nice," he said.

Another top concern for Hagen and EVPA is garnering more recognition for Pink Triangle Park, which grew out of efforts by EVPA members to turn a neglected patch of land into a memorial for LGBT survivors of the Holocaust.

"We want to raise visibility of the park," said Hagen, who added the group is debating on entering it into contests in order to win some awards and honors. "It just seems like the right thing to do."

Hagen said he sees his leadership role as rooted in being from a political family. His father, Paul Hagen, moved from working on George McGovern's presidential campaign to being tapped to fill a vacant state representative seat in Maine.

"He always was someone who believed one person can make a difference. For me, I have always been geared that way to believe one person can make a difference," said Hagen as to why he ran, albeit unopposed, for EVPA president.

Gustavo Serina, a past president of EVPA, said he has been impressed with Hagen's creativity and dynamism. With Hagen overseeing recruitment of EVPA volunteers at last year's Castro Street Fair, Serina noted the group raised more money from working at the fair than in years past.

He pointed to Hagen's wanting to hold social events as "the new perspective he is bringing to the group." ▼

For more information on EVPA, visit [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org).

## Library Commission to meet on merger proposal today

compiled by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Library Commission will meet today (Thursday, January 20) to discuss the proposed merger of the Harvey Milk branch with the GLBT Historical Society. The meeting takes place from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium at the main library, 100 Larkin Street.

The commissioners are expected to decide whether to suspend planned renovation of the branch library in order to further explore the possibility of a co-location project with the historical society.

At a meeting in the Castro about the plan last month, residents' views were mixed. The plan as currently proposed calls for renovation of the 1960s building

to include an addition or second floor to house the historical society's collection.

### Erotic art wanted

Artists in all mediums are being invited to donate erotic art for a benefit show, sale, and auction to raise funds for the San Francisco AIDS Candlelight Vigil and Association FXB (Francois-Xavier Bag-noud, which works to help children orphaned by AIDS in Africa).

The art show, planned for March 26 at the Center for Sex and Culture Gallery in the South of Market District, will be a fixed price event (\$69 per item, excluding the works in the live auction). Organizers are now accepting art donations in the mediums of paint, photography, jewelry, sculpture, ceramic, wood, found object, glass, etc. The deadline is in early February and orga-

nizers are asking for digital photos of the items. Organizers are also accepting items for door prizes and event sponsors.

For more information, e-mail [69art4aids@gotblow.org](mailto:69art4aids@gotblow.org).

### AIDS nightline seeks volunteers

The staff at San Francisco Suicide Prevention's AIDS/HIV/Hepatitis C Nightline are seeking volunteers and have announced that a new training session is scheduled to start in early February. The nightline is the only volunteer service of its kind in the country—staff provide emotional support and peer counseling every night to callers with AIDS/HIV or hepatitis C concerns. The hotline receives over 900 calls per month, from the worried well to the sick.

Interested volunteers should be willing to commit to a few nighttime or evening hours each week. For more information, call (415) 984-1902 day or night. ▼



**News Briefs**



# Local filmmaker tackles suicide at Golden Gate

by Zak Szymanski

Local LGBT writer, researcher, and filmmaker Jenni Olson is in the spotlight again, with the recent news that her feature film, *The Joy of Life*, has been accepted to the Sundance festival. The former PlanetOut.com entertainment director and PopcornQ founder is considered a leading expert in LGBT cinema, and her most recent book, *The Queer Movie Poster Book*, was published by Chronicle Books in 2004.

*The Joy of Life* premieres at Sundance this Friday, January 21, and is described by festival organizers as "an alchemical mix of landscape, sexuality, and suicide." [An excerpt from the film's script appeared in last week's arts section.]

The film's first half is dedicated to the life and times of a butch dyke in San Francisco, and the second half deals with the history of the Golden Gate Bridge as a suicide landmark. Performer-director Harry Dodge (*By Hook or By Crook*, Cecil B. Demented) provides voice-over for the film, as does poet-activist Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

The film's lesbian and gender themes are already noteworthy for a festival of international prominence, but locally, Olson said she is hoping to draw attention to suicide prevention, and the need for the Golden Gate Bridge to erect suicide barriers.

The premiere of *The Joy of Life* coincides, appropriately enough, with the 10th anniversary of the suicide of Mark Finch, the former artistic director of San Francisco's LGBT Film Festival. A pioneer in LGBT cinema and a personal friend of Olson's, Finch jumped to his death from the Golden Gate Bridge in January 1995.

"Mainly, I'm wanting people to remember him and think about him," said Olson. "But in the course of making the movie I definitely developed an activist agenda around the fact that a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge would save lives."

## Data

Olson draws from a variety of organizations and reports to make her case for the erection of barriers at the bridge: data shows that about 1,300 people have ended



Filmmaker Jenni Olson

their lives at the site since the bridge first opened in 1937. But many of these deaths were preventable, she said, citing the fact that other structures around the world — such as the Bloor Street Viaduct in Toronto — have successfully erected suicide barriers. Additionally, a 1978 study by University of California, Berkeley professor Richard Seiden showed that of about 500 people who had been prevented from jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge between 1937 and 1971, only 6 percent of them went on to commit suicide in some other way, furthering the case that the suicide crisis window is a very short period of time, helped along by readily available methods of carrying out the task.

The Golden Gate Bridge, according to suicide prevention activists, is the number one suicide landmark site for a variety of reasons: it is very easily accessible to pedestrians, for one, and it is now a part of the phenomenon of suicide landmarks, a status that acts as a lure. But the fact that the bridge's original railings are only four feet high is what many believe could be the easiest thing to change, with the most effective results.

But raising the height of those railings may not be as easy as some may hope. According to Golden Gate Bridge spokeswoman Mary Currie, the bridge's board of directors has been considering physical barriers for decades, but proposed designs must meet the safety and historic criteria set by the board as well as the California Environmental Quality Act in the 1970s.

Original criteria adopted by

the bridge board include engineering concerns, such as: suicide prevention barriers cannot exceed weight limits or violate aerodynamic standards, which would affect the stability of the bridge. The board also mandated that any barriers must be totally effective at preventing suicide and must not interfere with bridge access for pedestrians, cyclists, or maintenance workers. CEQA added even more criteria, such as visual and aesthetic ramifications of construction. One suicide barrier project in the 1970s was given extensive review but ultimately was not approved because all the standards could not be met.

"Whenever we define a project we have to evaluate its impacts," said Currie. "Each time we go through this, there is a rigorous evaluation, and so far, nothing has come forward that meets all the criteria."

Currie added that in the 1990s, the bridge board implemented non-physical barriers to suicide, such as adding uniformed safety patrols, training bridge personnel to be aware of suicidal behaviors, and changing the bridge phone system to allow people to be connected to suicide prevention counselors. More often than not, those phones are used by people who "are witnessing someone with behavior they find strange," said Currie, who believes that 70 percent to 80 percent of people intending suicide at the bridge are deterred.

The bridge came close once again to approving a physical suicide deterrent in the late 1990s when it evaluated the "Z-clip" agricultural fencing system, an 11-foot-high series of tension wires that folds back if someone tries to climb it. But during testing, said Currie, a significant number of people were able to get through or over the fence, failing the bridge board criteria that any barrier must be totally effective at preventing suicide.

While design criteria such as aerodynamic and safety guidelines would not be flexible, changing the "totally effective" mandate for suicide barriers may have the potential to change, said Currie, acknowledging that preventing some deaths, rather than all, would still have benefits. But the bridge board must adopt such a change.

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## KDFC's sour note

by Thomas E. Horn

I almost couldn't believe it when I read the headline on a news blurb in the *San Francisco Chronicle* recently: "Station won't air gay dating ads." I couldn't believe it because it was in the section devoted to San Francisco news. Birmingham, Alabama, maybe, but San Francisco? Never! Looking more closely, I saw the call letters: KDFC-FM. More horror! That's my favorite radio station: classical music for San Francisco and the Bay Area. It's the default station on my car radio and has been for years. There must be some mistake. Unfortunately, there isn't.

It appears that KDFC has refused to air paid ads by a business called 8 Guys Out where, for a fee, upscale dinners are arranged for eight, prescreened, compatible men. It appears to be the gay equivalent of Table for Six, a service that arranges ritzy dinner get-togethers for the straight set and advertises regularly on KDFC, by the way. I'm not offended by these Table for Six ads. It's not my cup of tea, but, hey, this is San Francisco. Whatever blows up your skirt.

It seems, however, that the management at KDFC has refused the gay matchmaking group's ads, because they are afraid of offending their "core listeners." Huh? Who do they think their core listeners are? At the risk of stereotyping, what gay boy or girl of a certain age doesn't listen to classical music in general and probably KDFC in particular, as they are the principal classical music station in the Bay Area. Has anyone from KDFC gone down to Davies Symphony Hall lately and checked out the crowd, not to mention the orchestra? And who ever met a homophobe that loved Mozart or Rossini? It adds insult to injury that this story breaks the day after the entire Bay Area celebrated the 60th birthday of one of San Francisco's brightest cultural stars, Michael Tilson

Thomas, who has led the San Francisco Symphony to international acclaim during his 10-year tenure, and who happens also to be gay.

I know that KDFC has struggled to stay on the air, and I would hate to see San Francisco and the Bay Area lose its "island of sanity," as one of the station's drive time programs is named. But this sort of blatant homophobia is just not acceptable. I don't know where those bigots are that are driving advertising decisions at KDFC, but they are certainly in the minority in this region. They don't constitute the "core listeners" of classical music; and they cannot be permitted to justify blatantly discriminatory decisions by a local business, particularly one such as KDFC that depends heavily on its gay and gay-friendly

audience.

Perhaps we can remedy this injustice short of extreme measures such as a boycott or a picket line. Maybe all they need is a little education about who their real listeners are and a reminder about the difference between right and wrong. Let's let them know what you think. Call them. Or send them a letter or an e-mail. They can be reached at:

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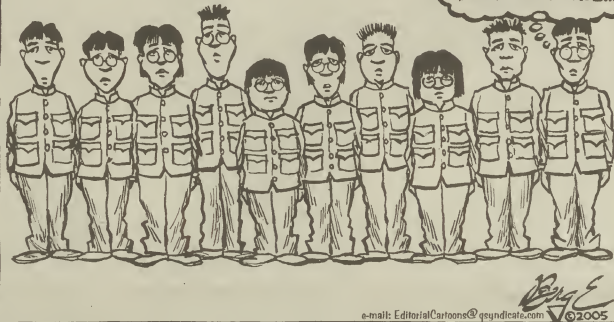
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## Editorial

## NEWS ITEM:

North Korean leader claims his country has no AIDS because there are no gays in North Korea.

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## Dean for DNC chair

by Paul Hogan and Debra Walker

With the imminent departure of current Democratic National Committee Chair Terry McAuliffe, Democrats are facing a choice of party leadership for at least the next four years. Former presidential candidate Howard Dean deserves to get the nod. Of all the candidates for party chair, Dean is by far the most accomplished advocate for LGBT issues having personally defended his signing of the civil union bill in Vermont. His campaign also demonstrated an ability to use the Internet to organize and energize a national network of activists and small donors. With Dean, the energy of the grassroots will be welcome in Washington, D.C. Our party leaders could benefit from outside perspective and fresh ideas.

Regardless of who is leading the Democrats, we will be cast as the party of gay rights. We need a party leader who is already fluent in the language of marriage equality and who will help craft a unified message promoting the Democrats as the party of equal rights. Our current dilemma is familiar: are we told gay issues are a liability for Democrats so we should avoid discussing them in national races. If we avoid discussing them, we cannot change public opinion about gay issues so they continue to be a liability.

Dean has personally fought the right wing on the issue of same-sex unions. After signing the civil union bill into law less than a year before his re-election, Dean quickly became an expert communicator of why same-sex couples deserve equal rights. Despite hostile crowds and death threats, Dean helped educate the electorate about the need for equality and won re-election for an unprecedented fifth term as governor. Of all the candidates for DNC chair, Dean's personal experience best qualifies him to help the Democratic Party find its voice on gay

issues.

Beyond policy matters, Dean has built a successful and energized national grassroots organization. Former Dean volunteers are seeking positions of leadership within their state and local Democratic Party organizations. Dean would focus on empowering the grassroots activists in the community to their community, bypassing an unfriendly mainstream media. More importantly, Dean encourages Democratic activists to play an active role in their community, to listen to the concerns of their neighbors and form policy from the bottom up.

Dean would also promote the use of technology to more effectively organize our party. His presidential campaign accomplished astonishing degrees of coordination with little money using the Internet to communicate and organize. Reports from the presidential battleground states last fall suggested that Democrats had plenty of volunteers but the GOP had better technology. While Dean is not the only candidate for DNC chair to embrace improving the party's technology, he has the most direct experience of implementing a high-tech national campaign.

In the 2004 presidential race grassroots activists also raised substantial sums for Democratic organizations. Dean set the standard for Internet fundraising not only while running for the nomination but also after conceding. His donors raised over half a million dollars for John Kerry in a single day. Dean also encouraged his supporters to give money to Democrats around the country contending for all levels of federal, state, and local office. If Democrats want to retain our financial parity with the Republican Party we must continue to grow the small donor base that first supported Dean.

Dean also embraces the strategy of running candidates in every race no matter how long the odds. He encouraged his supporters to run for office themselves at every level and some won their first elections. Dean also supported challengers in "safe" GOP districts. These challengers may not have won but they forced the Republicans to spend resources in those districts instead of redirecting those funds to more competitive races. Dean has committed to ensuring that we have credible Democrats running in every election.

The race to lead the Democratic Party is shaping up not as a struggle to move the party left or right but more of a struggle between party insiders and the activist outsiders. For many years now a small group of pollsters and consultants have steered the direction of the national Democratic Party with questionable results. After the abysmal decade Democrats have had electing federal candidates, we must encourage new leaders and new approaches.

Howard Dean remains the best of the competitors for the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee. We look forward to Dean's leadership on LGBT civil rights and on encouraging grassroots activists and donors. His desire to challenge the GOP in every district and his experience with running a high-tech campaign also elevate his candidacy. Most importantly though, his status as a Washington D.C. outsider and his desire to end business as usual give Democrats the best chance for success. ▼

Paul Hogan is Northern California co-chair of the California Democratic Party's LGBT Caucus; Debra Walker is Northern California vice chair of the caucus.

## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Off message on Newsom split

What a smug piece of nasty work, Tolver's letter was [Mailstrom, January 13]. Not to mention fatuous in its reasoning and unreasonable in its demand. The Newsom breakup has no more relevance to the cause of same-sex marriage as Newt Gingrich's two divorces or Rush Limbaugh's three. Unlike those on the religious right, Newsom has never held himself up as an exemplar of family values, and moral rectitude.

Surely one of the central tenets of sexual liberation and civil rights is the right to privacy and respect for the intimate details of one another's lives. Tolver subjects the mayor to the same judgmental brand of moral superiority that gays and lesbians have had to endure for eons. It's not right when the Falwells of the world do it to us, and it is not right for us to do it to Newsom.

Besides, I thought it was Newsom's stand on gay marriage that set back gay rights by a decade. Now Tolver says it is his divorce that will be the cause of the setback. Call me crazy, but to my thinking the only thing setting back gay rights are the opponents of gay rights and the people who worry too much about what they think.

Jay Bagi  
San Francisco

## Disappointed with story

I'm disappointed in the Bay Area Reporter for last week's gossipy piece ["Will Newsom divorce hurt LGBT marriage movement?" January 13]. Good for his spokesman for refusing to dignify your calls with a response.

Just running the article, coupled with the comments of letter-writer Tolver calling for the mayor's resignation, gives credence to the arguments of our enemies. They say gay marriage will weaken the institution of marriage for heterosexuals. Tolver says that Newsom's divorce weakens gay marriage. What claptrap. I thought this whole movement was about the right to make our own choices and have those choices accorded equal benefits. The fate of any one union has no bearing on any other. So give the mayor the luxury of dealing with his private life privately and spare us the pointless speculation.

Naphtali Offen  
San Francisco

## Absurd demand

In his January 13, 2005 letter ("Mad at the mayor"), Tolver defines marriage as rigidly as the Roman Catholic Church does. Mayor Gavin Newsom's separation from his wife has not "cheapened the relationship of millions of same-sex couples around the world." In authorizing same-sex marriages in February, the mayor was advocating for a legal principle that he wished to extend to all committed couples who wanted it. His comparison to his own marriage and the happiness it afforded him then was perfectly valid. People and situations change, however. If a relationship is no longer providing both partners with the satisfaction they need, they should be free to end it without being judged by others.

The decision by the Newsoms to divorce will have no bearing on the legal issues surrounding same-sex marriage. The California Supreme Court justices will render a decision based on their interpretation of the state's Constitution and the arguments showing that the existing ban on same-sex marriage discriminates on the basis of inherent characteristics, just as the ban on interracial marriages once did.

The ending of the Newsom marriage is about them, not about Tolver or about any other couple. Tolver's demand that Newsom resign as mayor because of it is absurd — we are not living in Puritan America. This is a difficult time for the mayor. Instead of attacking a man who has proven an extraordinary champion for our rights, Tolver should extend his sympathy to him and his wife over what has no doubt been a painful decision. If he doesn't have the grace to do that, then he should remain silent.

Gustavo Serina  
San Francisco

## Mayor demonstrated values

I was surprised to see someone state in a recent B.A.R. letter that the mayor's recent announcement regarding his marriage "set back gay rights by at least a decade." I fail to see how this could be so.

There is not one person who is on the fence about civil marriage rights who will be persuaded to oppose equality because of the mayor's personal situation. People who are vehemently opposed to us will not be convinced in our rights by the strength of Gavin Newsom's relationship. This reminds me of the comments some made when the first break-up of recently married same-sex couples was announced. We will not win civil equality by the perfection of our community or of our allies. Relationships are complicated and highly personal things. They are not political symbols.

Our movement is larger than any one relationship. I don't know the Newsoms personally, and I have no idea what their marriage issues may be. But I do believe that the mayor demonstrated his values and commitment when, nearly one year ago, he stood up for equality, and for the rights of all of us to make choices in our relationships. Nothing diminishes that.

Thom Lynch, Executive Director  
LGBT Community Center  
San Francisco

## Mapping a common agenda

As I read of the "joint list of priorities" released by 22 LGBT rights groups, I am led to wonder what is being done differently by "our" leaders this time around.

It is bad enough that over the past 10 years our agenda has been set by either straight white male politicians or moderate, better off homosexuals. Consider Clinton's prioritization of gays in the military or Newsom's push of same-sex marriage along with the relative privilege of the segments of the LGBT communities who had paid and pushed to promote those initiatives.

In response to Matt Foreman, who threw up his hands at the inability of the inside-the-Beltway activists to make strategic arguments against pushing for same-sex marriage prior to an important election, if you can't exercise leadership along with colleagues to prevent ill-timed actions, then my read is that you all are doing something wrong.

So long as support for federal laws preventing housing and job discrimination are not on the books while around two-thirds surveyed nationwide support those basic civil rights (Los Angeles Times, 2000 survey), then we do not have time to discuss marriage which does not eclipse 50 percent support. There is no excuse for our "leaders" to leave low-hanging yet tasty and valuable fruit on the tree while jousting at political windmills that do not, as of yet, enjoy broad based public support.

It is time for our "leaders" to show some respect for average LGBT folks and ask us what our priorities are rather than huddling in secret conclave deciding that for us. Perhaps there is fear that the democratically expressed aspirations of LGBT folks do not coincide with the desires of those donors with the fat checkbooks.

Marc Salomon  
San Francisco

## Hospitality House responds

In response to the recent story regarding homeless services in the Tenderloin ["Mayor vetoes homeless center funding switch," January 13], we think it is necessary to clear up some misconceptions about this issue.

First, Hospitality House greatly values the work of the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center and has a long history of partnership with them. In fact, I have had the pleasure of working with TARC on numerous occasions in my own work in AIDS service prior to coming to this organization. Second, there is no doubt that the city should have fair, objective bidding processes for its contracts. Hospitality House is in complete support of that policy. However, this bidding process should not have been used to change a program model that has proven successful in reaching the most vulnerable people in our community for the past 19 years.

Supervisor Chris Daly's recent legislation calls for the appropriation of funds to the Department of Public Health to maintain peer-based, self-help drop-in services in the Tenderloin. This legislation, which is supported by seven members of the Board of Supervisors and was recently vetoed by the mayor, would maintain this successful model of services. However, this contract would be put out to bid — a process in which any organization could potentially win the contract.

Hospitality House has never objected to this contract being put out to bid. Rather, we object to the fact that the city unilaterally moved it from the Department of Public Health to the Department of Human Services and then drastically changed the program model without an impact assessment and without input from the community this change would affect.

There was over two hours of testimony from the community urging the Board of Supervisors to pass this legislation. In vetoing it, the mayor has disregarded the community's message.

At Hospitality House, our first priority is to serve the needs of our community, and we look to our community to tell us how to best do that. We urge the mayor to listen to the community in this case and to support a fair process that would serve those most in need of services.

Daniel Hlad  
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# I'm tired of being the bogeymen

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Rich Madaleno, a delegate from Montgomery County, Maryland, wants to see a hate crimes statute get passed in his state. I'm with him on that — but, alas, that is one of the few things we see eye to eye on when it comes to this bill.

You see, Madaleno feels that this hate crime bill would pass much easier if it did not include language designed to protect transgender people. He feels that it is simply a "step too far for many" within the state Senate.

He's rather see transgender language out of the bill, just to get it passed. To quote Madaleno, "I'll take 50 percent and declare the day partly sunny rather than fight for the total victory and get nothing."

I would rather not make this an issue of identity, but I cannot help but wonder if Madaleno would feel differently if he were part of that 50 percent that he's willing to give away. Instead, he is a gay delegate, and would seem to have no plans to give up protections in this bill related to sexual orientation.

Perhaps if he was instead being asked to vote on a hate crimes bill without any sexual orientation language, his tune might be a little different. He knows that he faces the risk of a hate crime just like so many other groups of people who might be protected by such a bill.

Of course, I know that I'm also at risk of a hate crime. I also know that I am part of the one group of people who seems to be most at risk for being written out of laws that might protect me — simply so that some other group of people can have their "sunny day."

Such selling out of transgender protections is nothing new, with examples dating back to the 1970s. Perhaps back then, 30-plus years ago, there may have been some validity to it. Never mind that protections for any members of the larger LGBT community were pretty slim back then.

This is still very much an issue at the federal level as well. I've brought up the issue numerous times about attempts to get the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Local Law En-

forcement Enhancement Act to be fully transgender inclusive, and the struggles — even now — to get people to sign onto such. The same is true with attempts to include issues of bullying and harassment within the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Transgender issues continue to be a bargaining chip on bills that are likely to fail within this largely deadlocked, predominately Republican Congress.

Ironically, this fear that including transgender protections will doom a bill is largely unfounded. Within a week of Madaleno's comments hitting the news wires, the state of Illinois passed a transgender inclusive statewide antidiscrimination bill. Transgender protections were not sacrificed in order to pass a bill there, nor were they on the chopping block in an ever-increasing number of locations that have passed hate crime or antidiscrimination bills in the last two calendar years.

Indeed, the concept of "we can't win if transgender is included" seems to do nothing but point to the transphobia of those who make such statements.

Yes, I said it: if you are afraid that including the bogeymen that are transgender people in a rights bill will doom it, then maybe you need to look at exactly why you view the needs of transgender people as such a scary thing. Why should anyone fear trans folks so much that one is willing to toss us out rather than risk our inclusion?

Madaleno feels that transgender people will be adequately protected without specific language, as most hate crimes against transgender people will be because of an antigay bias. I'll concede that he may have a point there — but just as well, consider that many antigay hate crimes are perpetuated because of the victim's appearance, and how well that appearance fits a given gender identity or expression.



Christine Smith

Applying that logic, the gender language is far more important than the sexual orientation language. I can hear the outcry now for simply suggesting such a thing.

The thing is this: No great victory can be had of a partial victory. When the suffragettes fought for a woman's right to vote, they didn't opt to only include some women, they included all women. When Martin Luther King Jr. fought for civil rights in America, he didn't fight for some rights, or rights for only some people.

For that matter, when our community fights for marriage rights, we are not willing to call a civil union a victory, nor are we willing to accept marriage rights for a segment of our larger community without expect them for everyone. This is no different.

I would rather see change we can all be proud of, change that doesn't just allow a "sunny day" for one group of people, while leaving another in the darkness. Exactly how long would I have to wait for my rights after the passage of such a bill, and would Madaleno be the one to introduce it, or would that still be too risky?

To Rich Madaleno I can only offer the words of Herbert Spencer: "No one can be perfectly free till all are free." Truly, a "partial victory" is no victory at all.

Until one can see that I, as a transgender woman, deserve the same rights as anyone else, then we're neither free nor equal — even among our own. ▼

Gwen Smith would rather like to see some very sunny days ahead. You can find her on the World Wide Web at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).

## Marking MLK's 76th birthday

Several thousand people, including from left, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Treasurer Jose Cisneros, Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, Glide United Methodist Church's the Reverend Cecil Williams, and District Attorney Kamala Harris took part in the city's annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The group, led by Mayor Gavin Newsom, marched from Fourth and Townsend streets to a rally at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in Civic Center.



John F. Sullivan/California



# 10 areas of agreement for conservatives on gay marriage

by Dale Carpenter

The contending sides in the gay-marriage controversy often seem to talk past one another. They start from such radically different premises that it is hard to speak of genuine "debate" at all. One side says the issue is a matter of basic human rights; the other says it is about preserving a traditional form that is the basis for all successful human societies. They differ on law, history, culture, social science, and philosophy.

Most conservatives oppose gay marriage. Indeed, the conservative columnist Maggie Gallagher says it means "losing American civilization."

Conservatives are not unanimous, however. Beginning in the 1990s, a few prominent gay intellectuals like Andrew Sullivan and Jonathan Rauch began making what Sullivan called the "Conservative Case for Gay Marriage." This "conservative case" has rested on the idea that marriage would benefit gays, generally by encouraging long-term commitment among gays and particularly by settling gay men. It would therefore benefit our whole society.

Since then, David Brooks, a conservative columnist for the *New York Times*, has publicly embraced the idea. George Will, a prominent conservative commentator, believes we ought to at least experiment somewhere with gay marriage to see what effects it produces. A much larger number of American conservatives oppose a Federal Marriage Amendment, maintaining that the issue ought to be left to the states to decide for themselves.

But it must be admitted that the idea has not exactly lit a fire under most conservatives. In the interest of advancing the debate a bit, let's see if we can establish some common ground among conservatives on the subject of gay marriage. There are 10 premises in this debate that conservatives, opponents and supporters of gay marriage alike, share:

1) Marriage benefits society, and so anything that harms marriage harms all of us, whether married or not;

2) marriage directly benefits the individuals married;

3) it is on average better for

children to be raised by two married parents than to be raised by single parents or by unwed cohabiting partners;

4) because of the benefits identified in premises 1-3 above, marriage should be encouraged by public policy and specifically should retain its privileged position in the law;

5) it is socially preferable for gay persons to be in committed relationships than to be promiscuous;

6) if any significant new change to an important social institution like marriage is undertaken at all it should occur slowly and incrementally, state-

by-state, rather than in one fell swoop (as by court-ordered, nationwide gay marriage), so that we can assess the impact of the change and adjust the direction of reform or completely halt the reform;

7) proposals for change in policy about an important social institution like marriage must take account of the social effects of the change, as observed or as reasonably predicted, not simply the "rights" and interests of those advocating the change;

8) proponents of change in an important social institution like marriage bear the burden of persuasion;

9) marriage should remain reserved for two adult persons not closely related by blood; and

10) whatever public policy is adopted on the subject of gay marriage, churches and religious authorities must remain free to refuse to recognize them if they wish to do so.

Note how much this common ground separates conservatives from the left, including the gay left. Much of the left is suspicious of marriage and so might well disagree with at least the first eight premises and perhaps even with the ninth and tenth premises.

Of course some of these premises are stated in a way that masks important areas of disagreement among conservatives. For example, pro-gay-marriage conservatives believe that the benefits of marriage to children identified in premise #3 will also accrue to children raised by same-sex married couples; conservatives who oppose gay marriage doubt this. Also, some conservative opponents of gay marriage might argue that, regarding premise #5, while gay monogamy is better

than gay promiscuity, gay chastity would be preferable to either. We will have to address such differences.

But, stated at the level of generality at which they are stated above, I think most conservatives can agree with each premise as far as it goes. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com). Some of his past columns can be read at [www.indegayforum.com](http://www.indegayforum.com).

Political editor Wayne Friday is taking some well-deserved time off.

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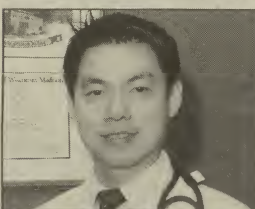
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# Hot wheels

by Jane Warner

**B**ody, 450 Castro, and Vibrant Health, 2301 Market, January 14: Two bicycles were stolen the same day and police believe the same suspect might have committed both thefts.

The first theft occurred between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. as the owner left his bike chained to a rack in front of Vibrant Health on Market Street. When he checked on it, he found that it was missing, and the lock was gone as well. The silver, red, and white Hardrock mountain bike was valued at \$400.

The second report came from a man who chained his bike to a parking meter fronting Body on Castro. When he came back 10 minutes later, his bike was gone and the chain that had been se-

curing the bike was dangling off the parking meter. The bicycle was described as a black 21-speed Cannondale mountain bike worth \$1,700.

If anyone has any information regarding these thefts they are asked to call the San Francisco Police Department at (415) 553-1141.



## Banged up

3600 block of 17th Street, January 15, 3:19 a.m.: After drinking at several bars in the Castro, a man decided to walk home. As he approached Church Street, a man walked up to him from behind and without saying anything, punched the victim several times in the face, causing him to fall to the ground. The suspect attempted to rifle through the victim's pockets, but the victim was able to fend off the attack and ran to his home where he called 911. Due to his apparent in-

toxication, however, the victim was unable to give officers a description of his assailant. Officers searched the area, but could not find anyone suspicious. The victim was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

## Wrong turn

18th and Dolores, January 14, 10:09 p.m.: A cabbie turning the corner near Dolores Park stopped to let a pedestrian go by. For no apparent reason, as the man crossed in front of the Luxor cab, he suddenly became angry and started to kick the front bumper of the cab, screaming obscenities. The suspect then approached the driver's window, and with a double-fist, punched it out. The cabbie radioed his dispatch who notified police as the suspect—described as a white male, 35, 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighing 180 pounds—walked into Dolores Park. Officers responded and searched the area for the assailant but could not find him. ▼

# More military linguists discharged under DADT

by Kevin Davis

**N**ow military homophobia has threatened national security.

According to the Defense Department, between 1998 and 2003, 20 Arabic, and six Farsi translators, vitally important to intelligence gathering and in critical shortage, were discharged from the military under the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" rule. Half of those were fired after the September 11, 2001 attacks, a far higher number than was previously reported.

The firings represent 50,000 labor hours per year when the linguists could have been intercepting memos or translating other information.

The September 11 Commission, in its report last year, concluded that the country "lacked sufficient translators proficient in Arabic and other key languages, resulting in significant backlog of untranslated intercepts," and the Defense Science Board cautioned recently that the U.S. has no communications channels to the Islamic world.

All told, 74 language specialists have been dismissed from the military between 1998 and 2003, 37 of them after the terrorist attacks,



CSSMM's Aaron Belkin

reported Nathaniel Frank, a New York University history professor and senior research fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara's Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military. His findings were published in the January 24 *New Republic* magazine.

"Well, we've known for quite some time that the military continued to discharge linguists after September 11," said Steve Ralls of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "It's shocking that when the military finds it needs these men and women the most

[they are discharged] after spending a lot of time and resources [educating them]. A lack of translators was not grave enough to give up their antigay and lesbian policy."

Last year CSSMM requested numbers on discharged linguists from the Pentagon. The military responded ambiguously, spurring Representative Marty Meehan (D-Massachusetts), who sits on the House Armed Services Committee, to file a Freedom of Information Act request. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld passed on the request to Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness David Chu, who surrendered the data.

"Saying anything makes them look bad," said CSSMM Director Aaron Belkin. "The Pentagon has had the same strategy for the past 10 years, saying, 'We follow the law. We treat all service members with dignity and respect.' They're just being euphemistic. They are following the law, neglecting [the fact that] they're the ones who made and put the law in place."

## One man's story

Ian Finkenbinder, 22, graduated from the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California in May 2002, then joined thousands of soldiers in the Third Infantry Division deployed to Iraq in January 2003. As a military intelligence officer and cryptologic linguist, he translated radio transmissions, helped other linguists collect information from captured Iraqis, and screened native speakers serving in a unit that took enemy fire. When his unit returned to Fort Stewart, Georgia, Finkenbinder heard whispers about his sexual orientation. In November he handed his commander, Captain James Finnocchi, a written statement of his homosexuality.

"Basically, my whole reason [for coming out] is I didn't want to have to serve in an environment where people behave in that manner without me being able to respond," Finkenbinder told the *Bay*

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# San Francisco HIV cases continue to plateau

by Matthew S. Bajko

San Francisco's HIV epidemic has stabilized, and health officials reported this month they expect the trend to continue through at least 2007, if not longer. The leveling off is a turnaround from the late 1990s through 2001, when HIV incidence had a resurgence.

It also makes San Francisco unique, in that the country as a whole saw new HIV/AIDS diagnoses increase by 3.2 percent between 2001 and 2002. While health officials reported a slight increase among heterosexual cases and a decrease among injection drug users, they said cases among men who have sex with men increased the most.

In another sign that San Francisco's system of HIV care has proven to be successful, the city has fallen out of the top 10 cities for AIDS incidence. According to 2002 numbers, San Francisco ranked 12th, falling behind Washington D.C. and Memphis.

"San Francisco has gone from being one of the most severely affected cities in terms of AIDS incidence to population to now having fallen to 12th. The leading cities have more injection drug users and heterosexual infections," explained Dr. Willi McFarland, director of the HIV/AIDS statistics, epidemiology, and intervention research section at the city's Department of Public Health. "It's not all good news, it's mixed. HIV incidence has leveled off, but at a rate that will continue to increase



Dr. Willi McFarland

the number of MSM living with HIV."

As the city prepares to conduct its HIV consensus estimate this year – the last one was conducted in 2001 – the number of people living with HIV or AIDS is expected to stay about the same at 12,786. The number of new annual HIV infections, which had been 748, is expected to be "a little lower" said McFarland.

The numbers are a double-edged sword for the numerous AIDS agencies that work to maintain the successes San Francisco has achieved in battling the disease over the last two decades. Federal dollars that support AIDS and HIV care follow the epidemic, meaning San Francisco's piece of the funding pie is likely to continue to shrink.

America's AIDS epidemic is moving into the South, what some

health officials are dubbing the "AIDS belt." Among the top 10 cities for AIDS incidence in 2002, Miami ranked second, Baton Rouge ranked third, West Palm Beach came in fifth, Fort Lauderdale sixth, New Orleans seventh, and Columbia, South Carolina placed eighth.

Sitting in first place was New York City, an 800-pound gorilla when it comes to federal AIDS funds. Last spring, when San Francisco lost nearly \$4 million in Ryan White CARE Act funding, local health officials said the drop was partly due to New York securing more funds than in years past.

In what has become a yearly report for the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council, McFarland presented the latest data and his predictions for where the city's AIDS epidemic is headed at the group's first meeting of the new year on January 13. He offered several reasons as to why health officials' fears in recent years of a resurgence in HIV have not panned out.

Their fears stemmed from rises in other sexually transmitted diseases, including syphilis and male rectal gonorrhea, both of which spiked upwards in 2000 and have continued to climb ever since. Both STDs can be a predictor for rises in HIV, for carriers are more susceptible to contracting the virus. But McFarland said that has

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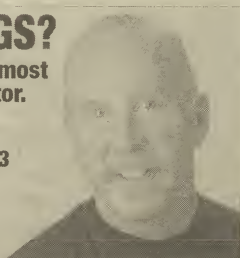
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# Local MACT group beings rebirth



Tony Bridges, left, and Nat Martin enjoy a moment at the Men of All Colors Together reception Saturday at the LGBT Community Center.

by Tyson Gillfillan

San Francisco's Men of All Colors Together, a local chapter of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, recently began its rebirth as an organization committed to battling racism and homophobia within the LGBT and greater Bay Area communities.

Hosting a two-day board meeting of NABWMT leadership to coincide with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, MACT held a reception Saturday, January 15 at the LGBT Community Center to celebrate the national association's 25th anniversary. MACT invited allied groups such as And Castro for All, and interested individuals, in the hopes of growing local membership and reinvigorating the chapter. Over 50 men representing a spectrum of ages and cultural backgrounds attended.

According to San Francisco MACT leader Gavin Morrow-Hall, although the group has been around for a quarter of a century, the local chapter has recently em-

braced the opportunity to return to its more formative stages.

"Right now there is a lot of interest in this city, and nationally – with the recent election – the opportunity and the need exists to confront a host of 'isms,'" said Morrow-Hall. "We believe that in creating a supportive environment dedicated to breaking down cultural barriers, we can help achieve the dream of equality for all."

NABWMT began when San Francisco community activist Mike Smith placed an ad in the *Advocate* to find out if there was a national interest among gay men in forming a group to foster cross-cultural communication and relationships. Local BWMT chapters soon formed in San Francisco, Chicago, Kansas City, New York, and Boston, and the first group meeting occurred in San Francisco on May 30, 1980.

Through the efforts of the San Francisco chapter, the NABWMT went on to found the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention in 1988, the first AIDS service organization in the U.S. specifically geared to serve gay men of color. The task force soon became a national model for AIDS prevention outreach to underserved communities, but closed several years ago.

As local resources became focused on NTFAP, San Francisco's BWMT chapter diminished, and all but dissipated in recent years. Area leaders decided that to once again become active in the community, they would begin by changing the group's name from Black and White Men Together to the more inclusive Men of All Colors Together.

"Part of what makes this organization so dynamic," said NABWMT Co-chair Tony Bridges, "is the fact that the chapters are allowed to best reflect the needs of their particular communities. Some chapters are called MACT, others have remained BWMT. Some have women in leadership positions, some have sister organizations, Women of All Colors Together – it's really about what works for each community."

National Co-chair Nat Martin added, "On the national level, we want to reach out to the chapters and support each of them however they most need us to." According to Martin, the national organization frequently provides resources to help chapters educate their communities on the history and frequently misunderstood pervasiveness of racism.

"I'm incredibly excited about tonight's turnout," said Morrow-Hall. "As the group grows and we continue our redevelopment, we'll begin having consciousness-raising sessions and sponsoring events to discuss racism and issues of concern to San Francisco and the Bay Area. We will also be serving a social function – allowing people of diverse cultures and backgrounds the opportunity to meet and enrich each other's lives."

"Our next step is to reach out to interested people and organizations that have a similar focus – no organization exists in a vacuum, the key word in our name is 'together,'" said Morrow-Hall. "It is very fitting that we are having this event on a weekend when a lot of places are celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy – I think this is something that Martin Luther King would have definitely said 'yes' to." ▼

Information on the local chapter of MACT is available at (415) 861-2630.

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Associated Press, April 22, 2003



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## BofA

◀ page 1

as calling BofA's inclusion of the question in a routine employee satisfaction survey as "very strange."

"What's the correlation between sexual orientation and whether or not your supervisor fosters a team atmosphere? What the hell does a bank care what your sexual orientation is?" Winning told the paper.

According to Joseph Goode, a corporate spokesman for the bank, the question is included to ensure BofA is responsive to all of its employees, whether they are straight or gay. He stressed that employees are told at the beginning of the survey that they can opt not to answer any questions

and leave them blank.

"The purpose of the demographic question is to ensure all our associates have a terrific work experience that we are trying to promote and continuously improve here at Bank of America," said Goode in a phone interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It is not to conduct an audit of how many gay or lesbian associates we have, but to number one, understand their level of satisfaction of BofA's workplace, where the bank is excelling in our objective of becoming a good place to work as an employer of choice, and understanding how various diverse groups of associates within the company assess the workplace and the work environment."

The bank sees no reason to change the survey, said Goode. He also added that the company

makes no attempts to determine the identity of respondents and that "under no circumstances" would it trace back survey results to individuals' computers.

"I think we are comfortable with our approach. Our objective is to provide our associates with a rewarding and inclusive work environment. The best way to do that is to ask for their input," he said. "Another important factor, all survey responses are completely confidential and will never be used to identify an associate. We take privacy extremely seriously at BofA."

Goode said this is not the first time the company has included the sexual orientation question in its survey and that in fact, the question has been asked for several years. Until now, he said no one has ever raised objections to the question being asked.

Nor is BofA the first company to quiz employees on if they are gay or straight. Two years ago J.P. Morgan Chase asked a similar question of its employees. Some advocates for LGBT workers say they see no problem with companies querying their work force in such a manner.

"I definitely think it is a positive step, assuming it is out of a desire to be more inclusive and further the cause of LGBT people instead of any potential retribution," said Selisse Berry, executive director of Out and About Workplace Advocates.

The nonprofit group, which works with companies to meet the needs of its LGBT employees, held its board retreat this past weekend, and Berry said board members reacted with surprise to the *Chronicle* column.

"Everyone overall was in support of BofA in that the only way we are going to be able to provide LGBT friendly workplaces is by

knowing who the LGBT people are in the workplace. So many people are interested in being out and would not feel like their civil liberties are being denied by being able to say that is who I am and I expect to have the same benefits as my straight colleagues," said Berry. "Obviously it is a controversial topic, but again, Out and Equal certainly supports any company and any workplace providing equal benefits and taking next steps to say who is out there."

Berry said the only change her board would like to see is more categories, such as intersex or other, being added to the sexual orientation question.

"There is much more fluidity now with gender identity, so it would be giving people a little bit more of an option," she said.

Some gay BofA employees said they see no reason to object to the company asking about their sexual orientation. Nor did they see collection of such data as cause for concern that the company is trying to identify and separate out LGBT employees.

"What the bank wants to do is get a better understanding of our community and a better understanding of our demographic. I see it as a helpful way of getting that information," said Mark Rhoades, who is openly gay and the bank's Castro branch mortgage executive.

Rhoades is also an organizer in the bank's gay employee resource group. He said he had not heard of anyone objecting to the survey question until being contacted by the *B.A.R.* for reaction to the *Chronicle* piece.

"We are so trained to come out as people, I don't think corporate America should get a bad rap. Society should get a bad rap. If people feel uncomfortable answering that question, it is not the fault of



BofA's Mark Rhoades

BofA, it is the fault of the way society thinks. And that is what we are trying to overcome," he said.

Bank of America, which merged with FleetBank of Boston last year, offers the same benefits package to both its married couples as well as domestic partnerships and those same-sex couples who marry in Massachusetts, said Goode. The company also supports a gay employee group called Pride, which has 15 chapters across the country, and has stepped up its giving to LGBT and AIDS groups. Just last month, BofA gave \$15,000 to the LGBT Community Center and \$10,000 to Project Open Hand.

"At the end of the day, what the company is trying to do is be a great place to work for our associates and an employer of choice," said Goode. "The way we can measure our ongoing progress against those objectives is to listen to the people who actually work here today." ▼

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2/02

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## Bush

◀ page 1

mentioned by Bush since the election – and it appears more and more like a pre-election ploy rather than a principled stand. (Of course, that's a relief but it's also an indication of how bald-faced a political maneuver this was in the first place). But this piece of sanity from the president deserves praise and reciprocation from those of us who support equality in marriage."

Sullivan urged supporters to "refrain from any constitutional or legal challenge to DOMA for the foreseeable future" while the experiment of gay marriage plays

out in Massachusetts.

Bush's statement is consistent with his earlier position on same-sex coupling. His born again experience is tempered by a residual Yankee reticence to publicly discuss details of his religious beliefs.

He has strongly articulated his view that marriage is between a man and a woman, but he is a more reluctant supporter of a constitutional amendment. While endorsing the concept of an amendment, he has not backed any particular language on that subject.

There is also the reality of division within the Republican Party. On January 16, the *New York Times* carried the wedding an-

nouncement of Dr. Dee Mosbacher and her lesbian partner, Dr. Nanette Gartrell. The San Francisco couple married in British Columbia. The Mosbacher and Bush families have strong ties through the Houston oil industry; Dee's father Robert raised millions for the first President Bush and served as his commerce secretary from 1989-1992.

And finally, observers said, the president is a pragmatic politician whose administration is exceedingly good at staying "on message," not letting peripheral issues distract it from its primary legislative and political objectives. Bush did not lobby Congress last year on the FMA and he is not likely to start now. ▼

## Leno

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Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, told the *B.A.R.* that he hopes the governor keeps an open mind as AB19 makes its way through the Legislature.

"First, I think the governor needs to keep in mind that we've been going incredibly slow," Kors said. "He might prefer things go slower, but the court cases are going to be decided and the right wing is going after a state amendment."

Hearings on AB19 aren't yet scheduled, but Leno faces opposition from Republicans and likely some Democrats. Last year, Leno withdrew similar same-sex marriage legislation after it became clear he did not have the votes to get that bill out of the Assembly. This time, Leno has a powerful

ally in Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles), who is a joint author of AB19, as well as the support of the Senate leadership.

## A backlash?

In his meeting with the *Chronicle*, Schwarzenegger also suggested that a legislative push to fully recognize marriage rights for gays might backfire.

"Eventually in a few years from now, you can readress it again and see what the people of California think," he told the paper. "You cannot force-feed those kind of things."

Leno said such comments are typical.

"That's a common response we hear often these days – our heterosexual friends want to protect us from backlash," Leno said. "I appreciate the concern and I know our adversaries are moving forward with a constitutional

amendment with or without the bill."

Leno brought up the recent comments made by President Bush concerning same-sex marriage. In an interview in Sunday's *Washington Post* the president said he would not push for a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. His spokesman has since backed off the president's statement.

"It's interesting that Karl Rove, a few weeks ago, said the president was moving ahead with the federal amendment. Now, guess what – the president says never mind," Leno said. "We see it for what it was, a shameful attempt to aid his re-election."

"We should not be distracted. We're doing our work," Leno added. "There are real families and real children who continue to be harmed by their second-class status. There is no reason for us to change course." ▼

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# New Lutheran Church report maintains antigay policies

by Kevin Davis

Gay and straight progressive Lutheran pastors are bitterly disappointed in the results of a four-year task force report that maintains the church's existing policy against same-sex blessing ceremonies and non-celibate LGBT pastors, and called hypocritical or redundant other accompanying qualifications.

An Evangelical Lutheran Church in America panel released its guidance Thursday, January 13. Instead of a moratorium on disciplining LGBT partnered clergy and their congregations, the task force chose an unclear statement urging bishops to use "pastoral discretion" over such matters.

The report said pastors should continue to respect the policy against same-sex union blessing ceremonies but that bishops "express trust in... their desire to explore the best ways to provide pastoral care," and asked members to find "ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our disagreements."

The qualifying, hedging concessions restate what most Lutherans know, that ELCA will tolerate those who believe and act otherwise.

The only movement that Emily Eastwood sees is "coming out of the closet about what we're already doing," said the executive director of Lutherans Concerned/North America and

spokeswoman for the Alliance for Full Participation, which includes six reformist groups. "This only raises that selective enforcement on top of the table."

Her group felt "profound sadness and dismay" at the recommendations. The church "is going to legitimize selective discrimination while claiming to welcome them," Eastwood said.

The report troubles the Reverend Jeff Johnson of Berkeley's University Lutheran Chapel and president of the Extraordinary Candidacy Project, an alternative credentialing program with no sexual orientation screening tool. Johnson, who is openly gay, labeled "tragic" the church's policy of welcoming gay and lesbian people, "without seeing us, hearing us, or working alongside us in ministry."

The recommendation to "live together faithfully" is "heartbreaking, really," Johnson said by e-mail. "The church can do better than clichés and platitudes. It's like recommending the sky be blue." Johnson added that he expected the results to move the discussion "forward, not backward."

The report failed to address the conflict between reality and discriminatory church policy, said Johnson, who called the recommendations "a messy repackaging of the current practice." It increases "capricious enforcement of a policy that destroys faith, ruins lives and careers," and "codifies



The Reverend Jeff Johnson, left, and LLMG co-chair Greg Egerton at Saturday's gala in San Francisco marking 15 years of the gay and lesbian Lutheran ministry program.

hypocrisy."

The report states that the church "may choose to refrain from disciplining" ministers with same-sex partners.

Steven Sabin, now a pastor at the Outer Sunset District's Christ Church Lutheran since 2001, said the only change he saw was inserting a "may" where there should be a "shall," thus giving bishops some "wiggle room."

"May" got us where we are," said Eastwood who, with her partner of 18 years, received a blessing in her own congregation and who attended ELCA's Chicago head-

quarters press conference announcing the recommendations.

As a 14-year pastor in Ames, Iowa, Sabin, who has a partner, received a condemnation, trial, defrocking, and deletion from the official roster that gives pastors a pension fund and assembly vote.

"As far as the roster is concerned, I don't exist," said Sabin.

In a long legislative process technically called "reception," congregations, church boards, and individuals now study and have an opportunity to comment on the task force documents, which the 65 synods tabulate and send itera-

tions either supporting, requesting delay, or amending it from now through July. The documents will then be brought to the General Assembly conference in Orlando, Florida in August.

"Tons of resolutions will be flying into local synods," said Susan Strauss, pastor at First United Lutheran Church in the Richmond District.

Anita Hill, pastor at Wingspan Reformation Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, agrees that divided Lutherans should work toward unity but believes the report does not necessarily advance that goal because it "asserts a welcome while legitimizing an arbitrary policy."

"I find it a crack in the sidewalk," where "a flower could grow, but not much more," said Hill.

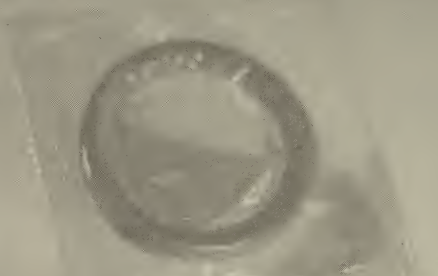
Though disappointed, Strauss understood the polarized task force members' dilemma inherent in crafting a deal without possibly triggering a church secession.

She said it all depends on whether the bishops will actually use their pastoral discretion, under pressure from the conservative wing, and wished the church's state of transition would happen faster.

"It's like a glacier moving a millimeter a century," she said. "We can talk theology to death," but she hopes people will invent concrete, creative ways to deal with hard issues in the "deeply felt

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WAG is a program of Gay Life at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation that celebrates local queer writers and aims to raise awareness and improve community well being through the written word. For information about this and all Gay Life events, call 415-788-5433 or go to [www.gaylife.org](http://www.gaylife.org).

# Re-establishing a checking account

by Bob Kelliher

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with AIDS.

Dear ALRP:

I have disabling HIV and had to take disability leave from work. While I was waiting for my benefits to be approved, I ran into some credit problems, bounced some checks, and eventually my bank closed my account. I finally received approval for my benefits and needed to open a new bank account for depositing my benefits checks. The bank asked for my ID and Social Security number. They typed it in, and then told me: "We don't want your money ... you are a problem account!" Now I can't open an account in any bank. What's going on?

Sincerely,  
 Bewildered

Dear Bewildered:

You have entered into the vindictive, unforgiving world of check verification systems. Any time a bank closes your account for bounced checks, excessive overdrafting, or financial mismanagement, your name goes into a database. There are two check verification systems, Telecheck and Chexsystems.

Telecheck is the "kinder and gentler" of the two. You pay up with the bank, and Telecheck takes the mark off of your record.

Chexsystems, however, is the database used by the overwhelming majority of banks. As far as Chexsystems is concerned, even if you pay off your debts, your previous history is still a blemish on your record for a minimum of five years. You may have to negotiate with a bank in order to open a checking account during this five-year period (up to eight years if the bank decides to renew the report).

## Does this mean I'm stuck with check cashing stores?

Not necessarily. You do have some options, but a traditional checking account is probably not one of them. These options are not perfect, but they are better than check cashing stores and their very high fees. The following options all allow for direct deposit of your benefits check:

- Credit unions: They operate on a different principle than banks, the basic difference being that you are not an "account holder," but rather a "shareholder." You need to have a "common interest" with other members (e.g., living in a specific city, or being a member of the same labor union). San Francisco Federal Credit Union and Patelco Credit Union are local examples of San Francisco residency satisfying the eligibility requirement. There are a number of other credit unions with different membership requirements. Your grandparents' dairy farm may even allow you to be a member of a "grange" credit union.

Credit unions and banks function similarly. Most credit unions

use Chexsystems. This means you can open a savings account, but not a checking account. However, you may be able to arrange for automatic bill paying, which serves part of the function of a checking account.



## ALRP Law

- Pre-paid credit cards: Yes, you can have a Visa or a MasterCard despite your credit problems, but you have to secure it with a deposit. There are several pre-paid credit cards available (e.g., Eufora). A credit card can be helpful to someone who

doesn't have a checking account because you can send in any amount of money via money order, and then withdraw money throughout the month by making charges.

- Investment accounts: Beg or borrow \$1,000 - \$5,000 and open up an investment account through a company like AmeriTrade. This alternative is for people who have discharged their Chexsystems debt, are waiting for the time to pass, and do not feel like going through the major negotiations required to open up a checking account in a commercial bank. You get a checking account with the investment account, which you can use just like a regular checking account. Just be careful - remember what got you into debt in the first place.

## Does this mean I'm free from any liability associated with my bounced checks?

No. Bouncing checks is a crime, and you can be prosecuted for it. Different counties handle the offense in different ways. You can also be sued in civil court for the amount of the check plus

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## OBITUARIES

**John Klamik**  
1935 — 2004

cancer, listed as the official cause of death.

John was born on July 22, 1935 in Chicago, Illinois, where he studied at the world-famous Art Institute. He moved to California in the mid '60s, settling in West Hollywood which, next to Chicago, was his favorite city in the world.

While working as an artist and Display Director for the Akron Stores, he combined two of his loves — art and activism — as the original editorial cartoonist "Buckshot" for the old *Advocate*.

During the next three decades, as "Shawn," he contributed mainstream cartoons to mainstream gay newspapers and magazines and, as "Sean," to more specialized gay publications, including *Drummer*, *Bound & Gagged* and *Red Tails*. He created murals for such famous Hollywood sites as Manspace, Hollywood Spa and The Sewers of Paris, as well as for Leather bars in Los Angeles and San Francisco. He wrote and illustrated graphic novels, and illustrated

many books and short stories for such writers as Larry Townsend and R.F.M. (Roger Mays). Indeed, he worked until nearly the end, delivering his final illustrations the day before his first stroke. He exhibited at the Tom of Finland Foundation art shows, and his original art is owned by collectors worldwide.

He was active in the fight for gay rights — picketing, sitting in, and serving repeated terms on the Boards of Directors for the Los Angeles organizations The Kingmasters and Christopher Street West, the planning organization for Los Angeles' West Hollywood's annual Gay Pride Parade and Festival.

He is survived by Jim Newberry, his companion of 40 years; his sisters, Dorothy Fay of Chicago and Louise Doty of Wayland, Michigan; and literally thousands of close friends and fans. John is mourned by all who knew him.

For more about this exceptional man, his life and his work, please see <http://www.seanthearist.com>.

**Jon A. Post**  
1941 — 2004

Former San Francisco resident and businessman Jon Alan Post died of lung cancer in Astoria, Oregon on November 11, 2004.

Mr. Post was born June 17, 1941

in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to Robert Adrian and Elva Margaret (Thompson) Post. He grew up in Glenshaw, Pennsylvania, graduated from Shaler High School, and was a member of the National Guard.

In the mid-1960s, Jon moved to San Francisco. Employed by Royal Supply, he sold to restaurants all over the city — including many in the burgeoning gay community.

Jon's active lifestyle included interests in current events, cooking and sports. He followed the Pittsburg pro and college teams. During the Forty Niners' heyday, his at-home parties and post-Super Bowl celebrations at the Ambush bar were memorable.

Mr. Post and his partner, Robert Warriner, moved to Astoria in 1987, where they soon opened Foster Care Home which operated until recently.

Jon was preceded in death by a sister, Patti Post, who died in 1960. Survivors include a sister and brother-in-law, Bobbie and Jim Porter of Manzanita, Oregon; nephews Mark Porter of Beaverton, Oregon, and Rob Porter of McMinnville, Oregon; niece Lynne Schreiber of Beaverton, and partner Robert Warriner.

Many friends of Mr. Post in the West include Wayne DeWolfson of Palm Springs, Jim Dewey of San Francisco, and the late Frank Pomanto of Las Vegas.

Memorial contributions may be made to Lower Columbia Hospice, 2111 Exchange Street, Astoria OR 97103.

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**Lutherans**

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struggle."

Even though First United was expelled from ELCA 20 years ago, its attending clergy are allowed a voice, but not a vote at Sierra Pacific Synod assemblies, which Eastwood called the nation's most progressive.

Last year, Johnson addressed and influenced a resolution's passage encouraging First United and

St. Francis to reapply for admittance to ELCA. The churches were expelled for ordaining gay clergy.

Although First United, whose inclusive reputation attracts a city-wide, 30 percent LGBT following, is now in compliance with the church constitution, owing to Strauss's heterosexuality, its congregation opposes applying again on principle.

"Some of us experience the gifts of LGBT clergy on a daily basis," said the San Francisco Conference of Lutheran Churches in a prepared statement which called

the recommendations "an incremental step forward."

Bishop Margaret Payne, chair of the task force's 14 seminary instructors, parishioners and ministers, said that in her Northeast Synod, pastors support same-sex couples through private prayer services.

In recent years, bishops expelled San Bernardino's Central City Mission for hiring a non-celibate lesbian associate pastor and censured another in Minneapolis that installed a gay associate pastor. ▼

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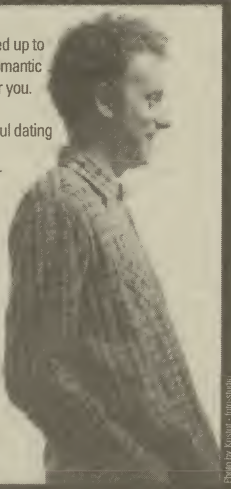
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# Rough boys

by Jim Provenzano

The last four years have seen a huge burst of growth in gay-inclusive rugby clubs around the world. While rugby is known for its grueling action on the playing field, members of the 23 clubs that are part of the International Gay Rugby Association & Board enjoy off-field camaraderie with equal intensity.

For Casey Ryan, president of the Philadelphia Gryphons, rugby's European roots interested the Irish American. After co-founding the Gryphons in 2002, he has seen club membership grow from 10 to 50 players.

A sense of serious athleticism attracted players to the Gryphons, Ryan said. "Having a qualified coach who had played on local teams and coached a few college teams really helps to focus the core group into being a team."

Dublin's Emerald Warriors, formed in 2003, have already grown from eight to 30 players, said team member and publicity chair Nick Costello, who played as a youth and returned to the sport a few years ago. "Most of the team had never played before," he said. "Those who played as adults are generally out [as gay], but respected in their teams."

The Emerald Warriors compete with other local clubs, including gay-inclusive clubs in their union (recreational conference) in the nearby United Kingdom, like the Caledonian Thebans (Scotland), the Manchester Village Spartans (Manchester, England), and the King's Cross Steelers (London).

While a few informal teams played in South Africa in the early 1990s, the Kings Cross Steelers, founded in 1995, was the first fully organized gay-inclusive club. Now active members of the sport's governing body, the Rugby Football Union, the Steelers participate in national competitions as well.

Despite the team's initial losing streak, they've improved and expanded their ranks, and hosted 2004's biennial Mark Bingham Cup. The tournament is named after the gay rugby player who was killed aboard one of the airliners hijacked on September 11, less than a week before his team, the San Francisco Fog, began its preseason training in 2001. A bicoastal businessman before his death, Bingham also co-founded New York's Gotham Knights.

In addition to upholding Bingham's legacy, the San Francisco Fog became the second North American gay-inclusive club (after the Washington Renegades), won both Bingham Cups, and has enjoyed a tenfold growth in membership (nearly 100) since its formation. The Fog competes with other "straight" clubs as part of the Northern California Rugby Union, one of the most competitive in the United States, said Fog president



The San Francisco Fog at a recent game.

Pete DuBois.

"We're different than a lot of gay sports; and because of that, we've had a greater opportunity and impact in breaking stereotypes outside our community," said DuBois. "It isn't through being activists; it's by competing and enjoying the sport on equal terms with other teams, and sharing the traditions of rugby socializing with our opponents after the match."

IGRAB works toward developing tournaments, and encourages diversity in clubs in the various forms of the sport.

Frank J. Sloan, president of the Dallas Diablos, said that in the United States, all rugby teams must belong to USA Rugby and to their local union (conference). "Within a union there are different divisions, just like in NCAA football - Division I being the hardest (most competitive), and Division III being the newest and least experienced teams," he said. "Unlike softball or other sports, we play 'straight' teams. The only time we play other gay teams is if they happen to be in our union or at special events put on to invite IGRAB teams."

The 2006 Bingham Cup, to be hosted by New York's Gotham Knights, will take precedence over Gay Games VII that year. (Montreal's OutGames has not planned rugby events.) "We would like to see those venues include a rugby festival event focused on individual players who sign up and are assigned to teams, rather than a city-based team tournament," said the Fog's DuBois.

Since both the Bingham Cup and Gay Games VII will be held in the United States, Ryan, of the Gryphons, said his club might send a contingent to both events.

Most non-sports fans might be more familiar with the sexy aspects of the sport through the Stade France Rugby calendars, photo book, and DVDs. Some gay teams - like the Seattle Quakes, the Caledonian Thebans, and the King's Cross Steelers - have even created their own similar calendars as fundraisers, featuring tasteful nude images of players in and out of the locker room. But some clubs without such merchandise seem eager to

"doff their kits" (strip down) for any occasion.

Countering the intense competition on the pitch (playing field), the post-game social events can be particularly rowdy, including traditionally bawdy songs. Some rituals even have their own terminology, like "Shoot the Boot" (drinking beer out of a shoe at a party) and going "Zulu" (losing team runs naked around the pitch).

Why is such frequent nudity and horseplay, called "messing," common among rugby players? The Gryphons' Ryan joked, "There's no way that rugby was invented by straight men. I would say it's the same socializing aspects that are present in fraternity rituals."

"It's a bonding thing," said Costello, of the Emerald Warriors. "It's about making the fabric of the team strong, and a characteristic of most rugby players not to take themselves too seriously. Men are rarely allowed to be childish, and this [sport] endorses a certain amount of horseplay."

Sloan, of the Diablos, said such diversions are commonplace on all teams. "We still do all those things that regular clubs do," he said, adding "regular clubs have gay men on them whether they are out or not. We just happen to be out and comfortable with that." Primarily, he said, "Rugby is about playing the game."

The SF Fog's next home game is January 29 against Monterey at Golden Gate Park's Polo Fields. To find out more about joining, practices, and the SF Fog, call (415) 267-6100 or visit [www.sffog.org](http://www.sffog.org).

Jim Provenzano is the author of the novels *PINS* and *Monkey Suits*. Read more sports columns at [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

## Links

[www.sffog.org](http://www.sffog.org)  
[www.igrab.net](http://www.igrab.net)  
[www.binghamcup.com](http://www.binghamcup.com)  
[www.dallasdiablos.org](http://www.dallasdiablos.org)  
[www.emeraldwarriorsrfc.com](http://www.emeraldwarriorsrfc.com)  
[www.pgrugby.org](http://www.pgrugby.org)  
[www.quakerugby.org](http://www.quakerugby.org)



# Illinois passes gay civil rights bill

by Bob Roehr

Illinois joins 13 other states and the District of Columbia in enacting broadly protective gay rights legislation.

The Illinois Senate passed the measure on January 10 by a vote of 30-27, with one abstention. The House, which had passed the bill in previous sessions, joined them the following day on a vote of 65-51, with one member voting present and one not voting.

A dozen Republicans in the House joined most Democrats to provide the margin of victory. One Republican said his vote had changed during the course of the debate as he listened to the bigotry and intolerance coming from some of his conservative colleagues.

Governor Rod Blagojevich (D) called the vote "a landmark day in Illinois" and has pledged to sign the legislation once it reaches his desk.

The measure adds sexual orientation to race, religion, and other categories that are included under state antidiscrimination

laws. It is the fifth state measure that includes transgender persons under that umbrella of protection.

The victory caps an 11-year struggle for enactment, led by Equality Illinois. During that period several jurisdictions passed local antidiscrimination laws that had already expanded those protections to about half of the state's population.

"It's incredibly important, a great day for all gay Americans," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "Our laws express the values of the society in which we live. The people of Illinois said through their legislature that antigay discrimination is wrong."

Riki Wilchins, executive director of GenderPAC, added, "This measure moves Illinois into the 21st century on workplace fairness. It will help ensure that Illinoisans will be judged by the quality of their work, not whether they fit someone's unrealistic expectations for a 'real man' or what is appropriate for a woman." ▼

## Castro bar

◀ page 3

flies in the face of accountability. The LGBT community and San Francisco as a whole should view this most recent withdrawal of the entertainment license application as another clear example of Natali's devious contempt for open governmental civil rights processes."

AC4A organizer Don Romesburg said Natali is mistaken if he thinks the group will eventually

tire of its efforts and quietly go away.

"We take our cues from the civil rights struggles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Each time he tries to delay, mislead, or hide from the truth, our efforts are redoubled," he said. "For the sake of human rights everywhere, justice will prevail."

While the Entertainment Commission pulled the item from its agenda, members did indicate that they take the charges very seriously and explained the city process for license suspension. ▼

## Golden Gate

◀ page 5

"In this day, our board could certainly determine to take a different approach, to the extent that they could," said Currie.

Olson said she believes that this is the year some progress will be made on erecting suicide barriers at the bridge. The Psychiatric Foundation of Northern California has been meeting with bridge board members and is about to launch a public education campaign. In response to an op-ed piece by Olson in last week's *San Francisco Chronicle*, the bridge board is looking at ways to open up the discussion again, said Currie, who added that the bridge also has to contend with funding shortfalls.

One danger in opening up the discussion too much, said Currie, is that some psychological experts have said that publicity around

bridge suicides could lead to copycat suicides. An understood "pact" has kept many bridge suicides and attempts out of the media, she said, because, "we never know if we are killing someone else by talking about it."

For Olson and others, it is the lack of barriers – not the conversation – that contributes to further suicides. And being a member of the LGBT community, said Olson, gives her even more of a personal investment in the issue.

"The gay community struggles with depression," said Olson. "Mark was depressed. I do believe that if barriers had been up at the Golden Gate Bridge, he would not have died." ▼

More information about suicide prevention efforts at the Golden Gate Bridge can be found at [www.pfnc.org](http://www.pfnc.org). Information on Olson's film can be found at [www.joyoflifemovie.com](http://www.joyoflifemovie.com).

## SF HIV cases

◀ page 11

yet to happen in San Francisco due to serosorting.

"We have seen an increase in STDs and unprotected anal sex and not have had HIV go up. This is due to networks of only positive men having sex with positive men and negative men only being with negative men," said McFarland. "If you separate out positive men, risk behavior has gone down since 2001."

The number of both positive and negative MSM reporting unprotected anal sex with a partner of the opposite serostatus has fallen in the last three years. But among men of the same HIV status, the number reporting unprotected anal sex has shot up since 2002. However, McFarland cautioned that serosorting might not be a viable HIV prevention strategy.

"It may not be a strategy over the long term that may be stable. How long will people choose someone of the same status?" he said. ▼

## Castro group honors police



The Eureka Valley Promotion Association, the city's oldest neighborhood group, presented members of the San Francisco Police Department with certificates of recognition for their contributions to the Castro District. From left, Mission Station Lieutenant Dan Leydon, Officer Lisa Frazer, and Lieutenant Dominic Celaya are all smiling following the presentation. San Francisco Special Patrol Police Officer Jane Warner was also recognized. EVPA's new president, Adam Hagen, just took over the neighborhood group; for a profile see story, page 4.

## Military linguists

◀ page 10

Area Reporter by phone from Baltimore, Maryland, where he continues to look for translator work, possibly with another government agency. "Also, I felt morally, that the Army had no right to ask me to keep my silence, that it infringed on my rights as a citizen. The main reason was to sort of say, 'you can't say to me stay in the closet.'"

The Defense Language Institute serves 3,000 students from several service branches. They undergo intensive training in one of 19 languages, and are said to be more mature, tolerant, and thus open about their sexuality.

"My peers, I'd already come out to them," said Finkbinder. "At times my chain of command would say inappropriate things. I'd never discuss it with them. You have to realize the community of linguists are people more highly educated, with a greater level of tolerance for ideas, more open."

"It's important to say that I didn't have support just from gay people," added Finkbinder, who said he was "very out" at his high school in Eugene, Oregon. "My peers and colleagues were aware of my sexuality. It was something we openly spoke about."

The Defense Language Institute declined to respond to inquiries.

"We're not commenting," said spokesman Bob Britton.

In 2002 Finkbinder roomed with another gay linguist, Alistair Gamble, who was discharged with six other linguists when a 3:30 a.m. "health and welfare" inspection – performed to assure no one

harbored illegal substances or guests past visiting hours – allegedly found student Rob Hicks in bed with Gamble. Upon further inspection, the superiors found photos of Gamble and Hicks holding hands. But Finkbinder said that Hicks was only helping Gamble, now a law student in Arizona, fix his computer that night. Tellingly, the surprise inspection found numerous men and women together in opposite sex barracks who only received a 10-day punishment.

"It just shoes how the law is applied unevenly," said Belkin. "Sexual misconduct on the part of straight people is regularly ignored, whereas just the fact of being gay, you're discharged."

DADT allows the military to look aside unless given proof of a soldier's homosexuality. Some are saying that Congress should replace DADT with a conduct-based – not orientation-based – policy to retain soldiers whose value to safety and mission outweighs unfounded fears about their sexuality.

CSSMM's Belkin called the military's system of dealing with homosexuality "capricious," in that it depends on the commander's discretion.

Finkbinder scoffs at the argument that gays in the military threaten unit cohesion, the ability of soldiers to bond and work together.

"That has zero basis in fact, because I've been in the field in combat zones, all these things, with people aware I'm gay," he said. "That line is propaganda. There was never any uncomfotableness if you asked them today."

Finkbinder called it "really ridiculous," and "a crime to be discharged on the basis they're gay when so many people are in stop-

loss," he said of the now standard practice of maintaining troop strength through, in effect, forced reenlistment, while denying soldiers another cash bonus or more money for college.

"My reaction is basically the whole policy is absurd, really," said Lawrence Korb of the Center for American Progress. Korb is a former vice president of the Council on Foreign Relations and was President Reagan's assistant secretary of defense. "The evidence is that it doesn't undermine readiness or unit cohesion."

"This is the one thing we're really short on, undermining readiness," said Korb of Arabic translators.

In his *New Republic* article, Frank noted a 2002 General Accounting Office study concluding that staff shortages in Arabic and Farsi linguists adversely compromised counterterrorism efforts and an October 2001 House Intelligence Committee report finding that "thousands of pieces of data are never analyzed" due to the scarcity of translators.

"While intercepts collected dust on the shelves waiting for Arabic translators, the military devoted its resources to rooting out patriotic gay Americans whose skills were essential to our safety," Congressman Meehan stated in the article.

A recent CSSMM study showed that purging of gay and lesbian personnel decreases during wartime to prevent heterosexuals from acting gay to avoid service.

Last September, CSSMM released the results of interviews with 30 gay soldiers who served in the Middle East, concluding that revelations of sexual orientation have promoted greater bonding and morale between soldiers. ▼

## ALRP Law

◀ page 16

steep fines. This column focuses on how to manage when you are prevented access to bank accounts. What to do (or not do) about the debt you owe is another matter and you should consult ALRP or another legal services agency to learn about your options and possible consequences.

**So if I succeed in finding a way to open a checking account, does this mean I can ignore my debts?**

Absolutely not. The best way to avoid trouble with banks is to be practical. Do not try to live be-

yond your means. If you do get into another bind, don't write a check that you know will bounce, even if it does "buy you more time." Instead, try to work something out with the person or company to whom you owe the money. They may accept installments or let you pay late. This will allow you to stay on good terms with your creditors and also avoid falling into that black hole of check verification systems.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bank-

ruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This column is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

**Do you have any legal questions? Call ALRP at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353; or write: 1663 Mission Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94103. For specific questions regarding housing call (415) 701-1200, ext. 314. To find out more about ALRP visit the Web site at [www.alrp.org](http://www.alrp.org).**



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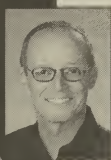
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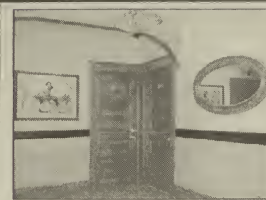
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## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281452-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Odd Pod, #167th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Darick Agudelo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/15/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/15/04.  
**DEC.30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281611-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fog Towne Cafe, 1155 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kwok Pang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/16/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/23/04.  
**DEC.30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281580-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: H and T 99 cents and over, 2706 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Truong Sam T. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/22/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/22/04.  
**DEC.30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281499-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jurislex Development Company. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed MH Marshall. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/16/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/17/04.  
**DEC.30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281453-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ABC Builders Co., 667 5th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jing Hua Yie Agudelo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/07/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/15/04.  
**DEC.30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281448-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Thomas Livingston Antiques, 550 Jackson Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Thomas Livingston. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06/15/77. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/15/04.  
**DEC.30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541678

In the matter of the application of Don Garth Olson for change of name. The application of Don Garth Olson for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Don Garth Olson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Don Carlo Parenti. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541638

In the matter of the application of Leslie Anne Carter for change of name. The application of Leslie Anne Carter for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leslie Anne Carter has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Gabrielle Anne Carter. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 15th day of February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**DEC. 30, 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #279441

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as One Good Deed located at 1032 Irving Street #902 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business was conducted by an individual signed Kathy Elliot. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/21/04.  
**DEC.30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281648-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Real Equity Solutions, 332 Pine Street #307 San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Theodore J. Ammirio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on not applicable. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/27/04.  
**DEC.30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**



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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE**  
 To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Haddad Joel Jamil. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3698 17th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. Type of License applied for: 41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE  
**JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005**

**STATEMENT FILE A-0281752-00**  
 The following person(s) are doing business as: Triad Partners, 65 Ora Way C-107, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Joseph Dung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/30/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/30/04.  
**JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005**

**STATEMENT FILE A-0281860-00**  
 The following person(s) are doing business as: Flower Cart, 2 Montgomery San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Valerie Chieng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/5/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/5/05.  
**JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005**

## LEGAL NOTICES

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## CRIME PREVENTION EDUCATION SERVICES

It is the intention of the SFPD to contract with a company to provide Crime Prevention Education Services to residents, employees of business and visitors of San Francisco. Education should include, but not be limited to Outreach, Course Design and Development, Grant Proposals and Implementation of programs, and liaison with other related agencies and Departments.

Deadline for Submission of written questions or requests for clarification: January 25, 2005.

Proposals Due: February 11, 2005.

For a copy of the Request for Proposal, contact Officer Shawn Wallace 553-1096.

## VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board of Supervisors web site at [www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/Vacancy\\_Notices/vacancy\\_app.pdf](http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/Vacancy_Notices/vacancy_app.pdf) or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: [www.sfgov.org/bdsupvrs](http://www.sfgov.org/bdsupvrs)

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

## ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD NO. 1

Vacant seat, succeeding Carol Ruth Silver, resigned, seat 7 (ALTERNATE /HEARING OFFICER), must meet the eligibility criteria set forth in Section 1624.05 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Must have a minimum of five years professional experience in the State of California as one of the following: Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Public Accountant (PA); licensed Real Estate Broker; Attorney; or a Property Appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized professional organization, or Property Appraiser certified by the Office of Real Estate Appraisers; or he or she is a current member of an assessment appeals board, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending September 5, 2005.

## ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD NO. 2

Vacant seat, succeeding Richard Lee, resigned, seat 7 (ALTERNATE /HEARING OFFICER), must meet the eligibility criteria set forth in Section 1624.05 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Must have a minimum of five years professional experience in the State of California as one of the following: Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Public Accountant (PA); licensed Real Estate Broker; Attorney; or a Property Appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized professional organization, or Property Appraiser certified by the Office of Real Estate Appraisers; or he or she is a current member of an assessment appeals board, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending September 6, 2006.

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## STATEMENT FILE A-0281919-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1.) Tony's Windows & Glass 2.) Tony's Glass 3.) Tony's Windows, 25 Virgil Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jesse Villarreal. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/6/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/7/05.  
**JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0281415-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Propaganda Industries, 2070 Pacific #201, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James Hanusa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/14/04.  
**JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0281899-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pier 38 Yachts, Pier 38 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wayne Moskow. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/6/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/6/05.  
**JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0281782-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: I.G.S., 849 22nd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Isidro Gutierrez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/3/05.  
**JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005**

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## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE A-0281805-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chic-Hotel, 301 Folsom St. #D San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Elisabeth Scharbaum. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/3/05.  
**JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0281896-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kiki Yo, 605 B Cheney St. San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Kirkland Taber. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/06/05.  
**JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0281971-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wizard of Change Wellness. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wendy S. Wiseman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/10/05.  
**JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0282113-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Unbelievable Edibles, 421 Taraval Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Sean Lackey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/01/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/4/05.  
**JAN. 20, 27 FEB. 3, 10 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0281959-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1.) Eng & Associates, 2.) Barrister Law Group, 3.) Golden Gate Law Offices, 4.) Golden State Law Offices, One St. Francis Place Ste 5201 San Francisco, Ca. 94107-1338. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John J. Eng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/10/05.  
**JAN. 20, 27 FEB. 3, 10 2005**

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541617

In the matter of the application of 1.)Cindy Fan 2.)Kevin Fan 3.)Elvina Fan for change of name. The application of 1.)Cindy Fan 2.)Kevin Fan 3.)Elvina Fan for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that 1.)Cindy Fan 2.)Kevin Fan 3.)Elvina Fan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to 1.)Cindy Angela Fan 2.)Kevin Bill Fan 3.)Elvina Diana Fan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**JAN. 20, 27 FEB. 3, 10 2005**



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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Wong Ching Li. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1748 Church St. San Francisco, Ca. 94131. Type of License applied for: 41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE  
JAN. 20 2005

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541617**

In the matter of the application of Don Garth Olson for change of name. The application of Don Garth Olson for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Don Garth Olson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Don Carlo Parenti. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0281719-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Baking Arts, 542 Brannan #410 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Richard Feston. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/29/04.  
JAN. 20, 27 FEB. 3, 10 2005

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE**  
To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Albeco Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 635 Portola Dr. San Francisco, Ca. 94127. Type of License applied for: 42-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - PUBLIC PREMISES  
JAN. 20 2005

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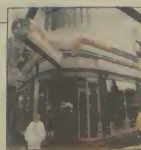


Kiss me deadly, it's the Noir Fest  
Our coverage of the Film Noir Festival  
screening at the Balboa Theatre continues.  
page 39

Dear 'Doctor Atomic'  
New John Adams opera  
in SFO's '05-'06 season.  
page 29



Castro landmark  
'In the Bars' drops into  
the Twin Peaks Tavern.  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 3 • 20 January 2005

## Mascara and boxing gloves



**F**ortunately, life chooses not to imitate fiction on a cold night on Polk Street as I seek out the small Asian restaurant where Nong Toom is holding court. In the film of her life *Beautiful Boxer* (opening Friday), a jaded Australian journalist is beaten near senseless as he follows the fleet-footed (even in high heels) Nong Toom through Bangkok's raucous

nightclub district. Once a world-class Thai kickboxer — knocking out 18 of 22 male opponents in the 118-lb. weight class — Nong Toom is now a popular soap opera actress, former beauty queen, and no doubt Thailand's most celebrated transsexual.

The brilliant new film is drawn from the life story of an effeminate country bumpkin who uses his skills as

champion Thai kickboxer to change himself into herself. Told in a long flashback, Nong Toom's tale begins as a frightened kid who is kicked out of a Buddhist monastery for displaying a penchant for lip gloss. Desperate to lift his family out of grinding rural poverty and liberate the girl within, Nong Toom stumbles upon

page 30 ►

## 'We're here, we're queer, we're hilarious!'

### Q Comedy celebrates five years of gay laughs by Adam Sandel



Larry-bob Roberts handles the publicity.

**Q**ueer comedy is alive and well in San Francisco, thanks to Nick Leonard and Larry-bob Roberts. The two producers who originally hail from Minnesota filled the comedy void left when Josie's Juice Joint and Cabaret closed in 2000.

Now celebrating five years of providing a venue for queer and queer-friendly comics, the producing pair has traveled a rocky road before settling into the Rainbow Room of the LGBT Center, where the show currently plays the second Monday of each month.

"We started at Kimo's on Polk Street, but that hard-drinking neighborhood was a little too rowdy for us," says Leonard. "One night, some drunks were heckling the performers, and we found out that the manager had let them in for free and put them up in front, thinking it would help the show. That was our last night there.

For a comedy club, it makes a great punk-rock venue."

The show migrated to Paul K's restaurant in Hayes Valley, then Piaf's, then a month at Theatre Rhino and a stint at a yoga studio on Divisadero, where Leonard had to hand-truck the equipment, drinks and ice in each night.

It was at the yoga venue where I first caught *Q Comedy* while researching a story on how local comics were addressing 9/11. In addition to local pros Lisa Geduldig and Bridget Schwartz (who always closes the show with a blast of comic insanity), the lineup included several newcomers.

Modestly thinking that I could do better than some of them, I asked Leonard if I could give it a shot, and a few weeks later was on the bill. But when I showed up for my debut, the lineup included pros like



page 28 ► Nick Leonard books the talent.

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# Come-as-you-are party

## But don't come dressed as Prince Hank

by Roberto Friedman

After all, who really got hurt in that whole Prince Harry-wearing-a-Nazi-uniform-to-the-costume-party international debacle more than scooped [UK] *Sun* editor Rebekah Wade? She reportedly went "on the warpath" after Prince Charles' press aides leaked parts of her Prince Harry Nazi exclusive to the *Sun's* rival Fleet-Street tabloid *Daily Mirror*.

Sources said Wade went into "melt-down" after she discovered that someone at Clarence House

had tipped off the *Mirror* about the Harry story — when it was her own reporters who first phoned the palace for a comment. It was her Get.

"She had a massive bust-up with [Prince Chas. press secretary] Paddy Harverson on the phone. Everyone witnessed it," one name-withheld *Sun* staffer snitched to the [UK] *Guardian*. "She went into melt-down. She has been shouting about it for two days."

Well, that's titillating. But what Out There really wants to know is, don't they teach any world history

in the royal curriculum? Shouldn't a Prince know what a swastika means? It appears that young Harry has inherited both his looks and, alas, his smarts-or-lack-of-them from his dear departed mum, who at least never paraded around like Eva Braun.

We seek solace in our mailbox. Next item, please!

### Swap meet

"Dear de Roberto," beloved correspondent Strange de Jim writes in violet pen, "at last it's coming out. Jen has named Dame Edna as the other woman, while Brad has named Dame Edna's manager, Barry Humphries, as the other man! We should have known all along. Love, Strange."

But love hurts, especially when you start racking up the partners. Way, way back in 1960, at a party at thespian Maggie Smith's place, bisexual actor Laurence Olivier, with his then-wife Joan Plowright in tow, complained that when he attended second wife Vivien Leigh's memorial service, "I was sitting next to a fat old woman who kept looking at me! She would keep turning her head in my direction, and blow me, I discovered it was my first wife!" That would be Jill Esmond, reportedly a lesbian, and mother of Olivier's son Tarquin. But we've all had that experience.

### Clay feet

On the other hand, the Big Get often proves elusive. Gay maga-

zine *Next* columnist Matt Bell claims the mag tried to nail down a big get with "sexually ambiguous pop star" Clay Aiken. "We tried to get an interview, but his publicist told us he'd 'never talk to a gay magazine!'" His bad. Too bad for him he only likes looking at the pictures in them.

It's not a gay mag, but *The New Scientist* reported last week on newly declassified documents that show the Pentagon considered developing a gay bomb. In Pentagon-speak, that's a *Queer Eye* for "non-lethal chemical weapons that would disrupt discipline and morale among enemy troops."

"Most bizarre among the plans was one for the development of an 'aphrodisiac' chemical weapon that would make enemy soldiers sexually irresistible to each other. Provoking widespread homosexual behaviour among troops would cause a 'distasteful but completely non-lethal' blow to morale."

*Au contraire*, OT thinks such a blow would weld the men into a fiercer, more fearsome fighting force. We say: Gay bomb, bring it on! But what would such a gay bomb make those of us who are already quite gay? Super-Gay!

The papers, dating from 1994, show that the bomb was being worked on by scientists at the US Air Force Wright Lab in Dayton, Ohio. The documents also show that the lab requested \$7.5 million to pursue the bomb, but a Pentagon spokesperson told *The New Scientist* it's not known if the project ever went ahead. Duh! The obvious next step is to investigate the gay bars and cruising grounds around Dayton for mutant homosexuals. At your own risk, troops!

### Luscious spread

For those nervous nellys worried about gay films not making their way onto the Castro Theatre schedule, and just in time for a new season of *American Idol*, Out There has some good news. That's the world theatrical premiere of gay filmmaker Q. Allen Brocka's *Eating Out*, coming March 18-24 to the old 'Stro. Frameline fans

will remember the movie as the winner of the Levi's Best First Feature Award at last year's les/gay film fest.

We're told by a reliable source in the biz that "although the film boasts a cast with enough shirtless sexiness to fill an XY spread, it crackles with a smart, tart wit reminiscent of a '30s screwball comedy — accent on screw." While not forgetting the ball.

The film features the film debut of actor Jim Verraros, whom many TV addicts will remember as a Top 10 finalist on the 2002 edition of *American Idol*. It's the feature debut of director Brocka (Rick and Steve), who was also one of the stars on AMC's *Gay Hollywood*. Plans are for both gents to come up to town for the March preem. Who knows, maybe we can

coax Verraros to sing a ditty or two — and Brocka to eat out on us.



Scott Lunsfield and Jim Verraros in *Eating Out*, coming to Castro

### Tune out

Out There has always been a lover of classical music, and we try to support the Bay Area's incredible wealth of musicians and institutions that bring us the music we love. But we won't be tuning in to classical radio station KDFC-FM any more, because the station refused to run a 60-second ad for the gay dating service **8 Guys Out**. So the *SF Chronicle* reported last week.

An account manager at KDFC-FM told the *Chron*, apparently by way of an excuse, "Based on previous experience when the gay-themed *Boy Meets Boy* advertised with us, apparently we had a lot of complaints from core listeners." Time for listeners to reach out, touch that dial, and tune into any station other than KDFC-FM.

### Fantastic voyage

If you're planning on attending ACT's production of *The Gamester* at the Geary Theater, be sure to check out what's up at the gallery on the theater's second floor. **Barry Swyers: Works of Paper** is a solo show of 28 collages inspired by Greek myths, classical

page 41 ►

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—Karin Thompson, Los Angeles Times

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## THEATRE

# Viva Rita Moreno!

A welcome return to the Empire Plush Room

by Richard Dodds

Rita Moreno is, with no danger of hyperbole, a phenomenon. Last year, she dazzled local audiences with her gutsy interpretation of Maria Callas in *Master Class* at Berkeley Rep. Now you can find the 73-year-old performer in a sleek white gown stretched out across the top of a grand piano at the Empire Plush Room. She may be a grandma, but, as one customer told her, "In my next life, I want to come back as your piano."

Moreno, it must be said, does not possess a notably strong singing voice, but she more than

compensates with her palpable connections to the lyrics, her accessible personality, and her passionate deliveries despite a scratchy throat and a few musical fumbles on opening night.

It's a diverse and compact song list Moreno has created for her first Plush Room engagement in three years. She opens with an emotionally rangy version of "But Alive" from the musical *Applause* before demonstrating her jazz creds with a sultry reading of "The Best Is Yet To Come," and later her piano-massaging rendition of "Some Cats Know."

Moreno adds resonance to some of the songs by creating a personal context for the lyrics,

most notably on "I Won't Send Roses." Her comic skills are keenly displayed in a novelty song titled "Sheldon," and then in "Everything's Coming Up Roses" as performed by Googie Gomez, the Puerto Rican chanteuse she played in *The Ritz*. And then she goes for broke to close the show with "Don't Rain on My Parade."

She's also a delight just telling stories, like how she and her doctor-husband decided to move to the Bay Area after getting bombed during a day of wine tastings on a tour of Napa Valley. "It's the best decision I ever made," she said before spitting out a curse on Los Angeles.

It's a decision that has also pro-

vided pleasures to the audiences of her new neighborhood. Moreno called herself an "old fartette," but don't you believe it for a second. ▼

Rita Moreno will be at the Empire Plush Room through Feb. 6. Tickets are \$40-\$50 plus a two-drink minimum. Call 885-2800 or go to [empireplushroom.com](http://empireplushroom.com).



Palpably connected to the lyrics.

# Casino royale

ACT's 'The Gamester' is classic farce

by Richard Dodds

Playwright Freyda Thomas wrote *The Gamester* in rhyming couplets because, she says in the ACT program, "Everybody loves rhymes."

That's not necessarily true, at least not in the theater, where rhyming couplets can drive you temporarily insane when done with a thudding predictability. But maybe Thomas has a good impression of this aged form because she's so good at them. At their very best, her couplets create a kind of double joke. They deliver a punchline and then top it with an unexpected but comically accurate rhyme.

Thomas built *The Gamester* by gutting a 17th-century play by Jean-Francois Regnard of its original dialogue and refilling the plot skeleton with her own words, inflections, and frills. In addition to her clever way with patter, Thomas has also created the broad outlines for a collection of characters that are begging to be filled by comedically gifted performers.

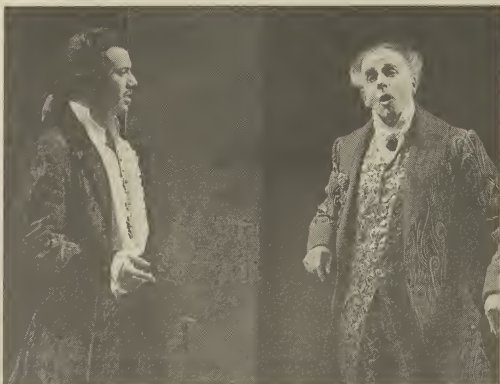
That's probably a big reason this recent but not particularly novel adaptation was selected for the ACT season. It turns out to be a very good reason, for director Ron Lagomarsino has filled the large cast with performers who know how to meld outrageously broad characterizations with enough humanity to keep them from becoming simply exhausting.

The setting is late 17th-century Paris, where casino gambling has become a popular if not quite respectable form of entertainment. Gambling as an addiction provides the heart of the story as handsome young Valere (the appealing Lorenzo Pisoni) has fallen into a deep debt that threatens both his relationship with his wealthy father (a pompously gruff Steve Irish) and the young woman (the comically astute Margot White) he pines to marry.

Swirling through the action is a rich widow (a lovingly libidinous Joan Mankin) who pays Valere for sexual favors, an old coot (the outrageously doddering Ron Campbell) who wants to wed Valere's sweetheart, the sweetheart's deceptively prim guardian (the always surprising Stacy Ross), Valere's put-upon servant (the oddly waddling Gregory Wallace), and the ridiculous fop (an unrecognizable Anthony Fusco) who has his frilly heart set on the rich widow.

In classic farce fashion, all the characters eventually come together, in this case at the casino, where disguises and misunderstandings accelerate the merry mayhem. Director Lagomarsino further cranks up the comedy with sight gags (a literally steamy sex scene, for one) and some swinging Vegas-style music cues. While Beaver Bauer's costumes are wonderfully over-the-top, Kate Edmunds' sets can't beat the look of a cramped budget. It's the only real comedown in this gleeful production. ▼

*The Gamester* will run at the Geary Theater through Feb. 6. Tickets are \$15-\$68. Call 749-2228 or go to [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org).



Lorenzo Pisoni (Valere) and Ron Campbell (old coot) at the Geary.

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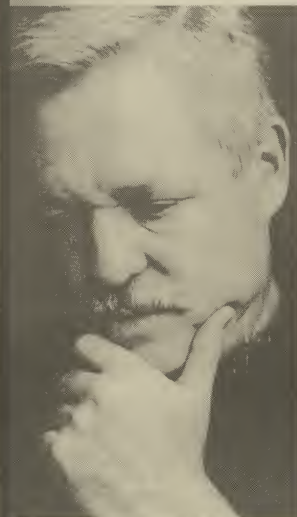
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# Oklahoma dreamin'

## Touring classic comes to the Orpheum

by Richard Dodds

**P**laying Will Parker in the tour of *Oklahoma!* is the first big break for Daniel Robinson, but this opportunity has come at costs both physical and emotional.

Because of a foot injury sustained while doing a trick dance step in his big "Kansas City" number, Robinson missed five weeks of performances. "I've been with the show since the start of the tour, and to see my role taken over was really hard," he said recently from Los Angeles, just a day after returning to the show. "It feels like someone is sleeping with your boyfriend or girlfriend."

And then there is Robinson's own boyfriend, Chad, actually

now an ex-boyfriend, but who still gets a thanks in Robinson's program bio. "I've been meaning to change that," said the 23-year-old performer (opening Feb. 1 at the Orpheum Theatre in the enduring R&H musical).

The difficulties of sustaining a relationship while touring contributed to the breakup.

"The company wanted me to sign up for another year, and I didn't know if that was the right thing. Chad sup-

ported me, but I didn't support myself," Robinson said. "I'm actually going

through a kind of issue with it right now, because we're playing in this area [where they were together], and trying to make my life evolve without him is weird."

But being on the road, at least until the tour reached LA, has provided a helpful distraction. Although he's been on the road with *Oklahoma!* for more than a year, he's not burning out.

"I still get a kick out of doing it," he said. "I definitely think I have the best role in the show. I'm always doing something fun or crazy."

This includes doing rope trips when his character describes just how up-to-date everything is in Kansas City.

"I had a trainer for about six weeks before the show went up," Robinson said. "I kept saying, 'I'm not going to get this,' and the guy would say, 'Come on, you gotta get it.' At the end of the six weeks, I was pretty clean. I continue to have problems, but it's only because I'm human."

This production of *Oklahoma!* is based on the big London and Broadway revival directed by Trevor Nunn and choreographed by Susan Stroman. In a break with tradition, the first national company is a non-Equity production. Robinson doesn't think it matters to audiences.

"It was an issue at the begin-



Daniel Robinson (r) as Will Parker.

ning of the tour because it was one of the biggest productions on tour that was going to be non-Equity, but now we're known as one of the best touring companies out right now."

Robinson, who saw the Broadway production, said, "The tour is almost exactly the same, except I think a little smaller. They've also made some cuts and revisions to make the show shorter. It was like 3:30 in London, and now it's down to three hours."

Reviews from the tour have been generally favorable, and uniformly good for Robinson. Well, nearly. "Pretty much I've only got-

ten one bad review," he said. "I was really sick, and I didn't have a voice. It was Minneapolis, and it was like 17 below."

Robinson grew up in Portland, Oregon, where he came out to family, friends, and his school as a high school freshman. "I'm kind of a big guy, and I didn't get messed with," he said. "I had all the girls on my side. Like, I won homecoming king, and I was in the prom court, and I brought a guy to the prom, and that guy was like the hottest guy there. It was pretty cool."

After high school and college at the University of Arizona, he headed to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York. "Four weeks before we were supposed to graduate, I left to take a role in the ensemble of a summer stock theater's production of *Oklahoma!*, but then I got a call to do a tour of *Grease* in Europe, and who wouldn't want to do that? But I'm still kicking myself in the butt. I kinda burned a bridge with that theater."

And touring Europe wasn't quite as magical as he had hoped. "We were in kind of weird places, like Klagenfurt, Austria, for six weeks. But Chad and I got to go to Venice, which was nice, a little stinky, but fun."

As for his plans when his run with *Oklahoma!* is over, Robinson said, "I have no plans. Nothing. I want to have enough money to go back to New York and live for a while doing absolutely nothing."

For *Oklahoma!* ticket info, call 512-7770 or go to bestofbroadway-sf.com.

### 'Mambo' queens

The play *Mambo Italiano* had its biggest success in Montreal, both in French and in English, but it arrives in SF with a name-recognition factor thanks to a 2003 movie version. The New Conservatory Theatre Center is offering the US premiere of Steve Galluccio's comedy as part of its 10th an-

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## Q Comedy

◀ Arts cover

Scott Capurro. In fact, I'd heard of every other comic on the bill.

But the comedy gods were smiling, the audience was lively, and my humble routine got enough laughs for Leonard to book me on a semi-regular basis as comic and occasional host.

What drives otherwise sane people with day jobs to stand up in front of strangers and try to make them laugh? For a long time, I had no personal answer to that, just some humorous observations about the gay experience that I wanted to share. Roberts, who handles the publicity as Leonard books the talent, sees that as one of *Q Comedy's* greatest contributions.

"Gay humor done by gay people is a good thing," says Roberts. "It allows all of us to laugh at aspects of our community. We all talk about free speech, but I'm a big believer in the application of free speech. This is one of those opportunities."

"Getting a new comic up there is really nice," adds Leonard. "That makes me feel like it's all worthwhile. One former newcomer who has really taken off is Ray Ferrer, and his alter-ego Coco Lopez.

"We had a teenage lesbian comic from Oakland who hit on a woman in the front row and got her phone number," says Leonard. "We haven't heard from her since."

### Hit parade

The more than 150 *Q Comedy* shows have featured nearly every gay and lesbian comic that you've heard of, and many you haven't. In addition to Schwartz, who appears at each performance, past shows have featured Tom Ammanno, Page Hurwitz, Capurro, Marga Gomez, Blake, Karen Ripley, Scott Silverman, Lisa Geduldig, Doug Holsclaw, Maureen Brownsey, Pippi Lovestocking, Scott Kennedy, Dana Cory, Janis Lipton, Mary C. Matthews, Mark Davis, Marilyn Pittman, Regina Stoops, Marti MacGibbon, Amy Boyd, Betsy Salkind and Bob Smith.

"We've done the show in every type of venue possible," says Roberts. "Each type has its advantages and drawbacks. My preference is for the theatre or cabaret venue, where people pay more attention than in a bar, where people are more chatty."

Although the LGBT Center has given *Q Comedy* a good rate on its Rainbow Room, Leonard and Roberts try to keep admission af-

fordable (and on a sliding scale), which doesn't add up to a money-making enterprise. This has caused them to go from two shows a month to one.

"We're hoping to get back to doing shows twice a month, which means looking for either sponsorship or another venue," says Leonard.

In addition to producing the *Q Comedy* shows, the dynamic duo has created a resource for gay comedy and comics on their website [www.qcomedy.com](http://www.qcomedy.com), which offers links to gay comics' websites and to gay comedy venues around the world.

While appearing at *Q Comedy* can be an ephemeral experience (you write the material, rehearse it, perform it, then everyone goes home), it does have rewarding moments. One fellow at a club told me he's been repeating one of my jokes for two years: Is it just me, or in Sarah McLachlan's song of lesbian love lost, "Adia," is the line "there's no one left to finger" in questionable taste?

The next *Q Comedy* show will be on Monday, February 14 at the LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., SF. Reception at 7:30 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets: Sliding scale, \$8-\$15. For other queer comedy events, visit [www.qcomedy.com](http://www.qcomedy.com). ▼



# Thrills and chills of the new season

San Francisco Opera announces 2005-'06 line-up

by Stephanie von Buchau

In recounting the recent press conference held to announce the 2005-06 San Francisco Opera season, it's tempting to give just the facts and not extrapolate meanings from the events that took place last Wednesday in the War Memorial's chorus rehearsal room. Not tempting enough, however, to override a recounting of some of the more juicy operatic goings-on.

To start with the positive, the season looks, as one observer said, "As if Kurt Herbert Adler had planned it. What took her so long?" "Her" refers to Pamela Rosenberg, the departing general director whose last season this will be. Rosenberg's first season announcement was unfortunate; she seemed cold, distant and authoritarian, rather like a headmistress telling us we would like avant-garde European opera if she had to break every bone in our bodies.

Very few real opera-lovers have antipathy to avant-garde European opera — it's often more palatable than any American scores. What drove the faithful crazy was non-traditional productions of familiar works, created by

people with tin ears and dirty minds, and cast with singers seemingly hired for their looks and their modest cash demands. Add this to a list of operas that bumped uncomfortably through 400 years of the artform, and the last few seasons have been bipolar at best.

That's not all gone in the 2005-06 season — who can look at that *Norma* cast without wincing? — but there is more obvious suitability than in previous seasons. Old favorites with international chops — Olga Borodina, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson and Dolora Zajick chief among them — are returning despite their major fees. Debutante Christine Brewer may be a heavyweight operatic throwback who will not look even remotely realistic in *Fidelio*'s pantsuit, but she has the voice for the role, and for Isolde, which she will be singing soon at the War Memorial.

The nine opera-season starts with *Italian Girl in Algiers*, a vehicle for Olga Volga (and later, for the welcome debut of Vivica Genaux), with music director Donald Runnicles in the pit and production designs by Robert Innes Hopkins, who did the beautiful *Cunning Little Vixen*. The



Berkeley-based composer Adams.

Rossini comedy is immediately followed by the Handelian romance *Rodelinda*, with David Daniels in what he once told me was his favorite role. This brooding, film noir production from the Bavarian Staatsoper sports the same, appoggiatura-less conductor as Rosenberg's notorious *Alcina*. Musical niceties are obviously not as important to her as dramatic ones. She used the dreaded word "psychological" 11 times in her description of the season.

You'll pardon me if I skip lightly over *Norma* and *La Forza del destino*; the best news about these two operas that require voice, voice and more voice, is the conductors: Oleg Caetani, who was jobbed by the cancellation of *Coq d'or*, and Nicola Luisotti, a former La Scala coach who has been con-

ducting for only a few years but has already made a name for himself as an Italian firecracker. The final standard rep of the fall season is the already mentioned *Fidelio*, conducted by Runnicles with Thomas Moser as Florestan and Juha Uusitalo as Pizarro. That sounds downright, old-fashioned, lip-smackingly yummy.

## 'Atomic' excitement

Yet the big news about the 2005 season (we'll deal with the summer of 2006 later) is *Doctor Atomic*, the world premiere commissioned by Rosenberg from Berkeley composer John Adams. Just as Rosenberg and Runnicles ended their description of the coming season, but before any hard questions could be asked — like why *Butterfly* replaced *Fanciulla del West* only days before the press conference, meaning that the brochures had to be completely redone — Adams walked in, wearing his cunning, Sylvester the Cat grin.

Adams is a natural-born didact, a humorous, centered personality, and a totally engaging off-the-cuff speaker. He warmed up the room, disarmed the skeptics, and even made Rosenberg laugh a couple of times. His opera about J. Robert Oppenheimer, and the scientists involved in the development and detonation of the atom bomb, has been alarming the operatic right-wing for any number of months. Never mind

that it is modern music, it's *political*, they've been screaming, as if *Fidelio* or *Vespri Siciliani* weren't political.

Adams, who is no fool, has heard this stuff, and he calmly put it in its place. He noted that, while *Doctor Atomic* was a serious opera — "Opera," he said, while not his favorite musical form, "grapples with imponderables" — the title itself was a cartoon. It is a particularly American attitude to make pop art out of "imponderables," and there is probably no composer alive today who does that better than Adams. To anyone worried that the new piece would be "an oratorio like *Death of Klinghoffer*," Adams noted that the text, by himself and stage director Peter Sellars (with whom Adams admits he is not always politically attuned), is a forward-moving, dramatic entity.

When Adams talked about composing the "countdown to detonation" in Act II, and "surrounding the audience with a soundscape — weather, machinery, airplanes — such as the Los Alamos scientists would have heard," I started to get excited for the first time. What would happen if the "psychological" San Francisco Opera suddenly produced a new score that worked on a purely aural level, as a physical rather than brainiac art, making the back of your neck tingle and your heart pump in your chest? In other words, an opera. ▼

## That's entertainment!

Celebrating MTT's 60th

by Philip Campbell

The final lofty strains of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony have stopped reverberating in Davies Hall, and the massive party tent from Michael Tilson Thomas's 60th birthday bash has been taken down. Maestro and musicians are heading south for a tour of Los Angeles and its environs.

The new year is off and running with typical energy and panache. The Southland concerts will feature but one signature work, Mahler's towering Ninth. So lucky Angelinos will get a soul-nourishing taste of what we have been enjoying for 10 years in San Francisco. In addition, they will savor it in their marvelous new Walt Disney Concert Hall.

There is no question the recent gala was an only-in-Northern-California event; still, the wonderful memory should manage to keep MTT and company pleasantly invigorated until his return home in March. There will be several promising programs in the meantime, featuring important guest conductors, but we have learned over the past decade that the electricity simply burns brighter when he is on the podium.

If anyone needs proof positive that following your bliss is the path to the fountain of youth, look at MTT's latest photos. He even conducted the concert for his own party, further demonstrating the benefits of a lifetime of regular upper-body workouts.

The show was star-studded



The birthday boy follows his bliss.

with the maestro's buddies. Soprano Renee Fleming (glamorous in copper satin), hunk baritone Thomas Hampson (sporting some distinguished new gray streaks), adorable Audra McDonald and local diva Lisa Vroman all joined in the love fest. Most importantly, old pal Frederica von Stade was on hand, looking exquisitely tasteful as always, in dark pink chiffon, singing to her greatest fan. The glowing conductor noted that his career could be dated "pre- and post-Flicka."

The program was all over the map, but how could it have been otherwise when the honoree's career has been shaped by and celebrated for a fascination with such diverse musical forms?

From the Polonaise of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* to the Scherzo from Mahler's First

page 31 ►

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# Kickboxing and celluloid dreams

Meet Ekachai Uekrongtham, the director of 'Beautiful Boxer'

by Sandip Roy

In *Beautiful Boxer's* opening scenes, a reporter trying to interview kickboxer Nong Toom finds himself getting beaten up by local toughs, until Nong Toom, now a gorgeous woman, comes to his rescue. "That reporter's role was inspired by my first meeting with Nong Toom," says director Ekachai Uekrongtham, a slight, bespectacled man in a baseball cap and leather jacket. "Of course, it was a little more dramatized, and the actor playing the reporter is 10,000 times better-looking than me."

Dramatizing the lives of real people is not something new for Uekrongtham. Though *Beautiful Boxer* is his first feature film, he had already made a name for himself in Singapore by conceptualizing and directing a musical based on the lives of the famous Siamese twins, Chang and Eng. Of course, Chang and Eng died over 100 years ago. Nong Toom, on the other hand, still looms larger than life in Thai cultural life, where in her post-op avatar she is model, actress and kickboxing teacher.

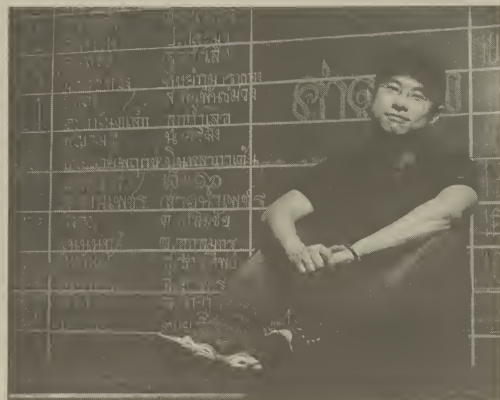
Yet that fame has come with its own baggage. Many in the Thai public adore her, while others think she has tarnished a sacred artform. "She is a walking paradox," says Uekrongtham. "As a dramatist, I was very drawn to the conflicts within her character as she tries to match her body with her soul." But he admits that when he went to meet Nong Toom, he carried within him the usual stereotypes and prejudices regarding the transgendered. Nong Toom, too, was reluctant. She had been interviewed so many times and sensationalized; she parroted the same old stories. "I was more interested in her as a human being," says Uekrongtham. "I wanted to know the happiest day

in her life, the saddest day. And I found myself being really moved by her stories, by the sacrifices she made to support her family."

## Talent search

Though he hired her as a consultant, Uekrongtham told Nong Toom, "I am not going to make a movie that pays tribute to your life. You won't have approval of the script." The trickiest part, he says, was finding someone who could play Nong Toom, not just imitate her. He knew he needed to find someone who already knew kickboxing, and scoured the Thai countryside, hiring trucks and setting up auditions in little villages. Finally, out of a short list of some 300 boxers, they selected Asanee Suwan.

Suwan probably never imagined that training to be a woman would be as arduous as training to be a kickboxer. He had to take ballet lessons, learn to pitch his voice, and take personality-adjustment courses meant for beauty queens, where he was taught how to pick up a glass. "I think the most excruciating part was to be waxed several times," laughs Uekrongtham.



'I was drawn to the conflict as she tried to match her body with her soul.'

am. "He learned how hard it is to be a beautiful woman." But, he says, it was important to be believable, not a parody of a drag queen.

"I told Asanee that if you and I do our jobs properly, the world will think you have some inclination," says Uekrongtham.

Though Thailand has churned out a spate of gay and transgendered films like the festival hit *Iron Ladies*, Uekrongtham says many of these films "laugh at transgendered people, not with them." At the same time, he says in a Buddhist country like Thailand, transgendered people are looked upon

with more compassion than gay people. "People think of transgendered as something more indigenous, perhaps the result of your karma," he says. "But being gay is regarded as a lifestyle choice, and an imported one at that."

While Nong Toom is no caricature, *Beautiful Boxer* steers clear of romance except for a brief crush on a fellow boxer. Pointing out that the film follows her life from the age of 6 to about 19, Uekrongtham says, "It's the early part of her life, full of crushes and puppy love. I teased her that if we make *Beautiful Boxer 2*, after the sex change, it would have to be R-rated."

Uekrongtham, who splits his time between Bangkok and Singapore and has lived extensively in London, is a cosmopolitan man. Nong Toom, on the other hand, came from a poor, rural Thai family. But Uekrongtham says he was humbled after meeting her and coming face to face with his own prejudices. "You need to give everybody a chance," he says. "If my art helps contribute in that direction just a little bit, I will be a very happy man." ▼

## Beautiful Boxer

◀ Arts cover

his fists' prowess accidentally while witnessing his brother fail a kickboxing tryout.

The real-life Nong Toom is quite the lady in public. Perhaps the only thing that would raise a stir in these parts is the dead animal-skin delicately covering her shoulders, offset by two lovely strings of costume pearls and a conservative-cut dress displaying very little cleavage. Speaking through an interpreter (director Ekachai Uekrongtham), Nong Toom explains that as a very

young boy, she always felt attracted to things that little girls liked to play with. She is herself a bit puzzled as to how an ancient Thai martial arts discipline (borrowed in equal measure from Japanese karate, Korean tae kwon do and Western boxing) would prove her ticket out of poverty. In the translator's words: "She says perhaps she got better and better because a lot of people looked down upon her, so she tried harder to outfight her male peers."

## Upper cut

Former kickboxer and first-time actor Asanee Suwan plays *Beautiful Boxer's* Nong Toom, suspending our disbelief about a demurely shy young man, too modest to be naked with his fellow boxers, who nevertheless devastates opponents with an acrobatic flurry of kicks and uppercuts. Through the same translator, Suwan, who is kickstarting a career as a big-screen martial arts actor, confesses why he opted for the part. "It was very challenging, because Nong Toom is still alive. It's really about making people believe that he's a character with a woman's heart."

Suwan explains that the film's fights were as much as possible like the real thing. "It was exciting to do the kickboxing because the film incorporated a number of ancient moves that are hardly ever performed, that he actually had to learn." The director/translator adds gravely, "Those moves are very lethal. You really have to do them in a split-second, or you'll either kill the other person, or the other person will hit you back, and you're dead."

Ironically, one of the first scenes was so real that an opponent was literally knocked out by a kick to the neck thrown by Suwan. The downed fighter took a few minutes to regain his senses, leaving the cast and crew with a few anxious moments.

*Beautiful Boxer* is a convincing portrait of a man driven to pursue his sex change against all odds. Nong Toom must avoid being viewed as a freak (his handlers promote him as a transvestite "Raging Pussy") while initiating



Nong Toom, left, is portrayed on the screen by boxer/actor Asanee Suwan.

the female-hormone treatments that will weaken him as a fighter. A haunting scene unfolds as a gorgeously photographed, slow-motion dance between Nong Toom and a handsome but treacherous opponent he's had a crush on.

"Nong Toom says that the film reminds her of when she fought with a guy she had some feelings for. She held back, but he never did, hitting her as hard as he could. She felt betrayed. It's like, 'I gave you some heart, but you didn't repay.'"

Actor Suwan, who in real life is conventionally butch and slightly shorter than his now good friend, Nong Toom, says making *Beautiful Boxer* made him a lot less uptight. "Before this film, he didn't have gay or transsexual friends, but now he feels it's important not

to judge people by their appearances, but to try and look into their hearts."

Nong Toom says her transformation has relaxed her fears about pursuing hunky guys, but some of the old inhibitions die hard. Thais, mostly Buddhist, actually tolerate gender dissonance, because they feel that gays, transvestites and transsexuals are suffering from bad karma from a past life. Nong Toom says that before her sex change, "it was inappropriate for someone like her to be liking a man, because it's not proper for two men to be doing something like that. She says she still finds herself unable to walk up to a guy and say, 'Hey, I like you,' or express herself openly. She prefers that the man make the first move." ▼

FROM THE OSCAR WINNING DIRECTOR OF TALK TO HER

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## BOOKS

# Alice in wonderland

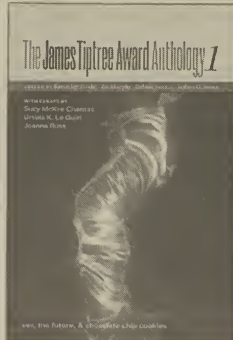
by Jim Nawrocki

The James Tiptree Award Anthology 1, edited by Karen Joy Fowler, Pat Murphy, Debbie Notkin and Jeffrey D. Smith; Tachyon Publications, \$15.95

Among those who write and read science fiction, James Tiptree, Jr., is something of a legend. When his stories began to appear in journals and magazines and the late 1960s, he soon attracted attention, but he deflected the spotlight with a stealth that Salinger and Pynchon would no doubt admire. What intrigued readers most about Tiptree's fiction was its explication of gender politics. After all, science fiction was a genre that, up until that time, had more or less steered clear of the topic.

Things got even more interesting in the '70s, when word leaked out that the reclusive Tiptree was actually the pen name for Alice B. Sheldon, a former artist, art critic, US Army intelligence officer, CIA official and a Ph.D. in experimental psychology.

In the early '90s, a group of science fiction writers and editors initiated the James Tiptree Award to honor Tiptree's legacy by recognizing "a short story or novel which explores and expands gender roles in speculative fiction." The use of the term "speculative fiction" is significant, because the award judges do not limit themselves to works that fall within the boundaries of traditional science fiction. In the decade or so of the award's existence, judges have recognized the work of such writers



as Marge Piercy, Margaret Atwood, and Salman Rushdie.

This new anthology, the first to bring together Tiptree-recognized work, is a curious collection, and not just because of the nature of the subject matter. True, it offers up a fair share of the kind of imaginative work that most people associate with science fiction. Geoff Ryman's short story "Birth Days," for example, explores how advances in technology and biology might one day alter the lives, and reproduction potential, of gay men and lesbians. The anthology also includes fiction that is not as easily categorized, such as an excerpt from Matt Ruff's recent novel *Set This House in Order*, which explores characters afflicted with multiple personality disorder. The editors have even included Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen: A Tale in Seven Stories* because it has had such a significant impact on fantasy and science fiction writing, and inspired several Tiptree winners.

trying to express his gratitude. After thanking his fellow musicians and life partner Joshua Robinson, he actually choked up. It was a lovely moment because it could only happen so naturally here, among loving and supportive friends and fans.

The after-concert party was staged in a retro '70s *Laugh-In* style tent designed by Stanlee Gatti (who else?). Huge orange polka-dots on a turquoise ground with giant orange carnation balls made a giddily festive backdrop for gamelan dancers, Brazilian Carnival showgirls and a red-hot Latin band. Now that's entertainment the SF way!

The following evening, MTT was back onstage for a much more sober program and a stunning presentation with violinist Christian Tetzlaff of the Schoenberg Violin Concerto.

The thorny and agonizing

## Beyond boundaries

In addition to the fiction, there are several essays, including Ursula K. LeGuin's *Genre: A Word Only the French Could Love*, in which she argues that genre categorizations have done more harm than good to literature as a whole. LeGuin, another former Tiptree Award winner, notes that the boundaries between "science fiction" and "literature" are increasingly blurring as writers like Margaret Atwood and Doris Lessing produce science fiction of their own, and do so without apologies.

The anthology includes two contributions that illuminate Tiptree-Sheldon's extraordinary life and character. The first, "Everything But the Signature Is Me" is Tiptree's own reaction to the discovery of his/her real identity, and a brief biographical accounting of her extraordinary life and emergence as a writer. The other essay, "Tiptree and History," is Joanna Russ' brief account of her lifelong friendship, via correspondence, with Tiptree. Reflecting upon Tiptree's lesbianism, progressive nature, unconventional life and chronic depression, Russ maintains that Sheldon was simply very much ahead of her time, and that she suffered the consequences.

Fortunately, Tiptree made quite a mark, as the Tiptree Awards suggest. Though this collection will appeal most to those who read and enjoy fantasy and science fiction, the editors' contributions, and the essays by LeGuin and others, make a good case for looking at all writing from a broader perspective than that engendered by the typically confining nature of genre categories. ▼

## MTT's 60th

◀ page 29

Symphony and songs and arias by Canteloube, Verdi and Richard Strauss, the music frothed and sparkled like the heady bubbles of the free-flowing champagne in the lobbies and party tent.

Audra McDonald brought Broadway into the mix as well, but the sweetest moments came with an intimate medley of works Tilson Thomas has written over the years. Hampson's rendition of his setting for Walt Whitman's "We two boys together clinging" was moving enough, but Flicka's smoky cabaret approach to "Lucky Fools" actually got me a little *verklemt*.

## Feel the love

The warm and fuzzy atmosphere finally caught up with the birthday boy himself, when he was

## Backstage

◀ page 28

nual Pride Season.

It's the story of Angelo, who moves away from his tradition-bound Italian family to live with another man, setting off his parents on a mission to turn him straight. Among Galluccio's other credits are *Brady Bunch - The Hidden Episode* (What's Alice Doing in the Freezer?) and *Batman and Robin: The Untold Story*.

George Maguire is directing *Mambo Italiano*, opening Jan. 22. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org for more info.

## Short scenes

• Former SF playwright Adam

Bock (*Five Flights*) is back in town for Encore Theatre's production of *The Typographer's Dream*. Opening Jan. 31 at the Thick House, it is described as a "hilarious story of borders, letters, fonts, and friendships." Call 821-4849 or go to [encoretheatrecompany.org](http://encoretheatrecompany.org).

• Talented solo performer Sarah Jones (*Surface Transit*) returns to Berkeley Rep for a pre-Broadway workshop production of *Bridge & Tunnel*. Rep Artistic Director Tony Taccone directs the multi-character monologue opening this week. Call 647-2949 or go to [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org). ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare by Mark Mardon

### Meccatone News™

Opening night at the Jon Sims Center production of *Italian.Queer.Dangerous* began with a mock newsreel, post-WWII style, dubbed a "Meccatone News Brief," an immediate attention grabber that set us in the mood for the basic biographical facts of Tommi Aviccoli Mecca playing a kind of one-man, Italian *Torch Song Trilogy*, but leaning more toward historical sincerity than cultural comedy. After the clip, Mecca came on stage, a plain wooden chair and a few coats and scarves for props, and began his autobiographical story — concise and tightly controlled, thanks to savvy direction from Francesca Prada.

Every solo show since Spalding Gray swam to Cambodia has begged the question: "Is this person's life substantial enough to hold out attention for an hour or more?" In Mecca's case, the answer is yes — and not because of his queer activism. In fact, gratefully, we were spared the stories of activism, which after all is but a byproduct of his character, as solid as the south of Italy where he traces his lineage, the source of his beloved *famiglia*.

As with his most recent solo effort, Mecca delved into his obsession, *la madre nera*, the Black Mother of Africa, his patron saint and spirit guide. This time his visit with her was brief, and then it was on to explaining that Italian as he was, with old-world parents, he lived in South Philly and wanted to be all-American, "not a greaseball," with straightened hair. Yet old Italy runs thick in his blood, and "South of Rome is what I breathe."

Though Catholicism pervades his culture, he has nothing to say of priests and sin. Instead, the old ladies of his youth were the preachers he heeded as he resisted being assimilated into the manhood his brute Papa tried to teach him. Papa loved birds, his one saving grace, and Mecca's middle name, Aviccoli, means "birds of the hills." "We got birds in us," Mecca says of his blood line.

Mecca tells us how his queer life got off to a rocky start: On prom night in South Philly, he goes with his "girlfriend," Angie, but he's in love with her brother, Guido. He puts on tails, puffs some pot for the first time, and as Angie tries to seduce him in her house, he's evasive, running off to the john to piss, suddenly spotting Guido in his bedroom beating off. Instantly, he jumps in on the act, sucking off the surprised, delighted dude. Of course Angie comes in and reads him the riot act. Guido goes off to Vietnam . . . and comes home in a body bag.

In school Mecca joins the gay student group. He speaks to a local TV news crew covering a gay rally. An uncle spots him on TV and reports back to Papa. First his parents send him to a shrink for "aversion therapy." Then, says Papa: "Give up the gay shit or don't come home no more." Replies Mecca: "Adio, Papa!"

From there it's the Firehouse in Greenwich Village, the place for radical fags. The years go by, his Papa suffers a stroke, reportedly after reading an article Mecca had written about Anita Bryant and her anti-gay campaign. By the time we come to Mecca's final confession, where he wishes he could remember all the names of the dead, he admits: "I have no sins to confess, just a little light in the night to make the way clearer."

Dangerous? Maybe, like Eugene O'Neill, or Tennessee Williams, or Edward Albee. Mecca confronts us with a mirror in which we see ourselves, and we're all a little Italian, queer and dangerous.

#### "Air Mail Dances" + The Valencia Rose

Over at The Exploratorium last Saturday night, Joanna Haigood danced Remy Charlip's *Air Mail Dances*, and the remarkable thing was how effortlessly and gracefully she moved about the aerial set, with platforms and objects dangling from the ceiling or perched on top of a room. She danced in the spotlights, casting giant shadows on the surrounding walls, some shadows a prism of colors. The extraordinary set, with suspended window and door frames, a fluffy white cloud, a four-poster bed, and a chair, required nimbleness and steady nerves of Ms. Haigood, who seemed lighter than air, especially when she rode the cloud. At the conclusion, Charlip came wheeling out on a cart, and he and Haigood were greeted with thunderous applause.

This week brings an event that hits close to my heart, a program devoted to that gone-but-not-forgotten queer performance space, The Valencia Rose (see Monday Main Library listing), which was a magical venue on Valencia Street where New College of California now stands. It's where many of today's great artists and civic leaders got their start, with Tom Ammanno prominent among them. It's where I first heard the great gay historian Alan Bérubé lecture, and he changed the course of my life, though I was a nobody then (still am). He has no idea what he did to me! It's where I first encountered Doug Holsclaw, who was definitely a somebody, the "it boy" of queer theater and comedy at the time (still is). It's where I had the honor of performing a bit part as a seductive shepherd boy in Arthur Evans' *The God of Bestasy*, his fabulous queer rendering of Euripides' *The Bakkhai*, in which the great Assunta Femia played the powerful goddess Semele and orgasmic wild women savaged the crude, crass men. I remember Ron Lanza always at the door, smiling and charming for everyone, long before he opened Josie's Juice Joint & Cabaret. Those were heady days in our grand gay republic. Check it out for the memories. ▼



Sue Li Jue and Facing East Music & Dance join other stellar acts as Footloose continues showcasing *Women on the Way* at Dance Mission. See Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

## Fri 21

### Other ballerina pie-throwing party @ Jon Sims Center

Other magazine celebrates its second anniversary with a ballerina pie-throwing party! Nine lovely, haughty beauties in full ballerina regalia will exchange volleys of pies. Lynne Breedlove from Tribe 8 will MC. Afterwards, dance to mashups spun by Mysterious D and Party Ben from Bootie SF. Beer provided by the Mendocino Brewing Company. \$5-\$10 sliding; free if dressed as a ballerina. 9pm-12:30am party (piefight at 10pm). Jon Sims Center for the Arts, Studio 3, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness).

### The Peking Acrobats @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Cal Performances presents The Peking Acrobats, with daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs, treacherous wire-walking, amazing displays of contortion, flexibility and control. Since 1952, this elite group of acrobats, gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists and tumblers for the People's Republic of China has left audience . . . Live musical accompaniment on traditional string, wind and percussion instruments. \$22; \$30; \$42. 8pm. Also at 2pm (Family Fare show) & 8pm Sat., Jan. 22. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, Bancroft way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Tix: 510-642-9988; www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

### The Pajama Game

@ Randall Museum Theatre  
The Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company presents *The Pajama Game*, directed by Diane Price. At the Sleep Tie Pajama Factory in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, when the new plant supervisor, Sid Sorokin, takes a shine to Babe Williams, the head of the grievance committee, opposites attract in more ways than one. A workers' strike, a hidden key, a knife-throwing mania, and stolen moments in Hernandez Highway all combine to make a musical evening of fast-paced songs, dances and fun for all. \$7-\$9 at door. 8pm Fri. & Sat., Jan. 21, 22, 28, 29. 2pm & 7pm Sun., Jan. 23 & 30. Randall Theatre, 199 Museum Way. Info: 415-554-9523.

### Italian.Queer.Dangerous @ Jon Sims Center

Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents *Italian.Queer.Dangerous*, a one-man show featuring Tommi Aviccoli Mecca, directed by Francesca Prada. Through monologue and spoken word, well-known San Francisco queer activist and writer Aviccoli Mecca tells his story of growing up gay in South Philly's Little Italy. At age 19, fired up with new pride in being gay, he came out to the world — and his traditional Roman Catholic southern Italian familia — on a TV talk show. The rest is history, and the subject of this performance. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Seating is limited. 8pm. Plays Fri. & Sat. nights only. Jan. 21, 22, 28, 29. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St. (btwn Van Ness & 11th. Tix/info: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

### Men Connecting

@ AHP Services Center  
Workshop: "2005 Men Connecting: What Do We Want From Ourselves and With Others?" Discover what you desire and how to attain it while developing and enhancing your overall health and well-being. 6:15-9:30pm. 1930 Market St. Registration required: 415-476-6448, ext. 1.

### GuyWriters @ Magnet

GuyWriters, a literary group for gay men in the Bay Area, presents "An Evening with K. M. Soehnlein." The author of "The World of Normal Boys," Soehnlein will read from his new novel, "You Can Say You Knew Me

When." The event will be held on Friday, January 21st, at 8 pm at MAGNET, 4122 18th Street at Castro in San Francisco. Please contact guywriters@yahoo.com for more information.

### Epiphanies @ Magic Theatre, Southside

Opening night: Word for Word begins the year with Epiphanies — performances of two classic works: *A Jury of Her Peers*, by Susan Glaspell; and *The Necklace*, by Guy de Maupassant. Directed by David Dower. Master examples of the short story genre, both stories portray women caught in the web of society's expectations. Featuring Word for Word Charter Members Delia MacDougall, Patricia Silver, & Stephanie Hunt. Glaspell's writing is strongly feminist, dealing with the roles women must play in society; De Maupassant's tales were marked by objectivity, highly controlled style, and sometimes sheer comedy. \$28 (\$25 student/senior). 8:30pm Wed.-Sat. & Tue.; 3pm Sun. Magic Theatre, Southside, Building D, Fort Mason. Tix/info: 415-437-6775; www.zspace.org

### WOW @ Dance Mission

Footloose presents the *Fifth Annual Women on the Way Festival (WOW)*. A three-week program curated by Artistic Director Mary Alice Fry. Tonight: Facing East Dance featuring Sue Li Jue; Dance Is-It; and the Choreographers Repertory. The festival runs Jan. 30, Thu.-Sun. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 415-289-2000; www.ft-loose.org

### Thistle LLC

#### @ Rickshaw Stop

Asia Argento's much acclaimed, eagerly-awaited film version of JT LeRoy's sensational novel *The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things*, opens the SF IndieFest on Feb. 3rd, and in honor of the occasion, LeRoy's band Thistle LLC (he writes the lyrics) plays a benefit for the SF Indie Fest tonight (Fri., Jan. 21) at 8pm. 18+ w/ID. \$10 (all proceeds benefit SF IndieFest, Feb. 3-15) at Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell at Van Ness.

## Sat 22

### Mambo Italiano @ NCTC

Opening night: The New Conservatory Theatre Center's *Pride Season Ten We Are Family* presents the U.S. premiere of Steve Galluccio's comedy *Mambo Italiano*, directed by George Maguire. Angelo, a charming-yet-bookish Italian-Canadian coming to terms with being gay finds himself in a lusty affair with childhood buddy Nino. His parents start devising a collection of schemes intended to turn him "straight" and things go from sunshine to thunderclouds in short order. Cast: Christopher Malkish (Angelo); Tony Davis (Nino); Ana Bayat (Lina); Camilla Busnovesky (Cina); Cathy Fithian (Maria); Richard Ryan (Gino); and Jessica Viola (Anna). \$20 previews (Jan. 14-21); \$40 Opening Night; \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. 8pm (2pm Sun.). NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

### Wizard Training School

#### @ Randall Museum Theatre

The Randall Museum presents Family Arts in Action: *Wizard Training School* with Brian Scott. Explore the world of magic and mystery with magician Scott. An interactive, fun-filled performance for kids and their families. Make items magically appear; learn how to control mystical creatures; make someone float in midair. \$5 adults; \$3 kids (2-12); free for babes in arms. 1pm. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above Castro & 14th streets). Info: 415-554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org

### Ricky Jay @ YBCA

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents *Extraordinary Exhibitions: BroadSides from the Collection of Ricky Jay*, guest-curated by Renny Pritikin, Interim Director for the Richard L. Nelson Gallery at the University of California, Davis, running January 22-April 3, 2005. BroadSides announcing a singing mouse, a chess playing automaton, a chicken incubating machine, a speaking machine, a mermaid, a bullet catcher, a flea circus and an equestrian keeper, are just a few of the sensational, scientific, silly and startling attractions based on 17th, 18th, and 19th century playbills from the collection of Ricky Jay. Admission: \$6 general/\$3 seniors, teachers and students/FREE for Center Members. Sun./Tue./Wed., 12 noon-5pm, Thu.-Sat. from 12 noon to 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street @ 3rd. Info: 415-978-ARTS (2787); www.ybca.org

### 'Carl with Records'

#### @ Giorgi Gallery, Berkeley

Afternoon show: Back by popular demand: "Carl with Records," in which dream artist Carl Linkhart lets his freak flag fly in a zany performance of original song stylings set to vinyl. Carl has been writing original songs since childhood and came up with the idea of using recordings as background in 1970. Sometimes quirky, humorous, artful or dramatic, he matches his melodies from almost any genre, from elevator music to country, jazz, rock and world music. Part of "A Cocktail of Glamour and Anarchy," the fabulous Cockettes art exhibit and performance salon series curated by Rumi Masi. Donations welcome (NOTAFLOF). 2-4pm. Giorgi Gallery, 2911 Claremont Ave. (at Ashby), Berkeley. Info: www.giorgi-gallery.com

### Mood Swings

#### @ Giorgi Gallery, Berkeley

Nighttime show: San Francisco had-drag impresario Brian "Chickpea" Busta presents *Mood Swings: A Black Light Puppet Spectacular!* Journey into cartoon-scapes of eye-popping electric color, giving new meaning to "Orange Alert!" *Mood Swings* brings California's vibrant history alive, with a colorful tour of important events from the Indian wars to Walmart and the modern casino renaissance. Burning Man attendees who visited the Comfort & Joy theme camp at night on the playa have already seen Chickpea's black-light creations. Busta is perhaps best known as one of the creative forces behind the notorious Gay Go Halloween performances in the Castro. Part of "A Cocktail of Glamour and Anarchy." Free (bar proceeds benefit Comfort & Joy theme camp). Two shows: 7 & 8pm. Giorgi Gallery, 2911 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. Info: www.klodhopper.com/mood

### MAP @ 848

One night only: 848 Community Space presents MAP: Media Assisted Performance <dance-for-camera + interactive multimedia performance>, a unique evening of site-specific dance videos, performance installation, and experimental multimedia performance. Featuring: Stranger, a dance-theater expedition of questionable behavior in unfamiliar surroundings, by Sheldon B. Smith and Lisa Wymore; *reillusioned*, in which dancers blur the edges between video and live performance, with choreography by Pauline Jennings, music by Sean Clute; *Living Lenses*, video revealing the hidden choreography of everyday life, by Louise Bertelsen & Po Shu Wang; *Collateral Damage & Theme and Variation 101*, dances to the tunes of AK-47s and artillery shells. Video by Andrew Wass. New work by French video artist Camille Auburtin and local choreographer Leslie Seiders. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero St. (at McAllister). Info/Res: 415-922-2385; www.848.com

### WOW @ Dance Mission

Footloose continues with the *Fifth Annual Women on the Way Festival*. Tonight: Element Dance Theatre; Counterpoint; Dance-It. Festival runs Jan. 30, Thu.-Sun. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 415-289-2000; www.ftloose.org

## Sun 23

### T-BAG @ Underground SF

Underground SF presents T-BAG, a monthly T-Dance with a twist. T-BAG bridges the gap between old school queens and the newer generation of dyed and pierced altera-queens. DJs Marcelino (My Place, Loveworks), Dirty Diana (Love-works) and Dick Vivian (Rooky records) spin deep crate disco that will keep the dance floor packed. Flashback visuals & sexy T-BAG dancers. Every fourth Sunday. Free Deep Crate Mix CD to the first 25 people. \$5. 6pm - 2am. 21+ w/ID. Underground SF, 424 Haight St. (btwn Webster/Fillmore; formerly The Top).

### Ishmael Reed

#### @ Main Library

*Fighting for Peace: Live Jazz & Poetry* — Reading with Ishmael Reed. The peace poetry of Buddhist philosopher Daisaku Ikeda comes to life with African American literary dynamo Reed, with a sizzling jazz combo amplifying the cry for peace from poets and musicians worldwide. Free. 2-



3:30pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium.

### Glamorous Moments @ Hormel Center, Main Library

Opening: Glamorous Moments: Photographs by Two Visual Aid Artists. Featuring "Snapshots from Mrs. Vera's Daybook" — Photography by Michael Johnstone, "an ongoing series of color portraits depicting Mrs. Vera, a composite character personifying many of the eccentric, uproarious and flamboyant people who were lost to the AIDS epidemic; and "The Secret Society of St. Anne" — Photographs by Matthew Hudson, "color images of one of the most avant-garde parades of the Mardi Gras celebration, that allows diverse people of different social status, gender and sexual orientation to interact in a uniquely charged atmosphere as equals, for a day. On exhibit Jan. 23-March 17, Main Library, Third Floor, James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove). Info: [www.sfpd.org](http://www.sfpd.org)

### SF Hiking Club @ Coastal Mt. Tam

Get sun and views high above the ocean on the Coastal Trail. It's a moderate 10-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:15am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: [www.sfhiking.com](http://www.sfhiking.com)

### WOW @ Dance Mission

Footloose presents the Fifth Annual Women on the Way Festival (WOW). A three-week program curated by Artistic Director Mary Alice Fry. Tonight: Choreographers Repertory: Mima Licione. Dance-is-It. The festival runs thru Jan. 30. Thu-Sun. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 415-289-2000; [www.ftloose.org](http://www.ftloose.org)

### Amy Dondy

@ Giorgi Gallery, Berkeley  
Amy Dondy, who has been called the "Maria Callas of Cabaret", delights her audience with her ability to "weave magic" and "touch hearts" and her unforgettable renditions of contemporary and classic American Popular Music. Accompanied by Richard "Scrumby" Koldewyn of the "Cockettes" and "The Jesters." 2pm. Part of "A Cocktail of Glamour and Anarchy." Donations welcome (NOTAFLOF). 2-4pm. Giorgi Gallery, 2911 Claremont Ave. (at Ashby), Berkeley, Info: [www.giorgigallery.com](http://www.giorgigallery.com)

### Renée Fleming @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Cal Performances presents beloved American soprano Renée Fleming, one of the most highly regarded and celebrated singers in the world. A fearless performer and musical risk-taker with a range from Handel to contemporary music, Ms. Fleming is in her vocal prime and consistently dazzles standing-room-only crowds throughout the world. She'll be accompanied by pianist Hartman Hoell. \$34, \$48, \$72. 3pm. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Tix/info: 510-642-9988; [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu)

### Liszt in Leather @ Victorian Englander House

"Liszt in Leather" — The San Francisco Concerto Orchestra with The Diva from Philly, Annette DiMedio, & Seth Montfort; piano. Geoffrey Gallegos, conductor; Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1, The San Francisco Concerto Orchestras National Concerto Competition winner, Annette DiMedio, piano, Liszt Piano Concerto No. 2, Seth Montfort, piano. In addition there will be narration by Jasmine Stone from her cult classic novel Symphony X. Wear your leather to hear this 35-piece Orchestra of Professional Musicians, gay & straight, from Bay Area orchestras, including SF Symphony, Ballet, & Opera, dressed in Leather & Street Fair Attire. \$15-\$20. 7 & 8:30pm. Victorian Englander House, 807 Franklin St. at Turk. Tix/info: 415-362-6080; [www.sfcasualmusic.com](http://www.sfcasualmusic.com)

### Mon 24

#### Valencia Rose Revisited

##### @ Main Library

Program: Valencia Rose Revisited, a look at Early Queer Theater in San Francisco. In January 1982, Hank Wilson and Ron Lanza turned a former funeral home into what became one of the city's most prominent queer theatrical venues, the Valencia Rose. Among the players who lived up what is now the New School space were Whoopie Goldberg, Lea DeLaria, Marga Gomez, Doug Holsclaw and Tom Ammiano. To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of its closing in 1985, join Ammiano, Holsclaw, Lanza, Karen Ripley and F. Allen Sawyer in a lively trapeze down memory lane, with rare performance footage. Free. 6pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

#### Get Real! @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's 2005 Educational Season presents the return production of Get Real! by Doug Holsclaw. Directed by Sara Staley. Funny sketches with popular characters to address AIDS issues in an adventure-packed play. All performances followed by a discussion led by an HIV+ educator. Appropriate for



Catch a unique black-light puppet spectacular as Brian "Chickpea" Busta presents *Mood Swings* at Berkeley's Giorgi Gallery. See Saturday.

4-6 graders. \$10 adults; \$7 youth. Mon.-Thu. at 10 & 11:30am. Thru Feb. 10. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 415-861-4914, ext 109.

### C.A.F.E.'s Off Market Playwright of the Month @ Off Market Theater

C.A.F.E. Presents Off-Market Playwright of the Month at Off Market Theater. A staged reading of *Palm Sunday* by Jan Probst. Curated by Roger Mrazek. It's a Sunday afternoon in April, 1965, and for weeks everyone has been talking about the first U.S. combat troops recently deployed to Vietnam. In Elkhart, Indiana, however, the focus has shifted to an enormous tornado sweeping across the Midwest. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. Off-Market Theater, 965 Mission St. (at 5th). Tix: 415-896-6477; [www.cafearts.com](http://www.cafearts.com)

### Clogging classes

#### @ Jon Sims Center

Learn to clog with the Barbary Coast Cloggers. Clogging is a fun American folk dance similar to tap dancing, but with a much more relaxed, bucolic feel. For men and women of all ages and dance abilities. 7:30-8:15pm Beginning Clogging; 8:15-9:15pm Intermediate Clogging; 9:15-10pm Advanced Clogging. All students welcome to attend any portion or all of the evening of dance instruction. \$20 for three week series or \$7 drop-in (NOTAFLOF). Studio #1 (top buzzer), JSC, 1519 Mission St. Info: [www.barbarycost.org](http://www.barbarycost.org)

### Tue 25

#### That's Revolting!

##### @ ADL Bookstore

Castro Reading: *That's Revolting! Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation* (Soft Skull Press). Edited by Mattilda, a.k.a. Matt Bernstein Sycamore (Pulling Taffy). Readers include Mattilda and contributors Charlie Anders, Tommi Avicolli Mecca, Xarick Nerdcore, Reginald Lamar and more. TBA. Free. 7pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro (at 18th). Info: (415) 431-0891; [mattbernsteinsycamore.com](http://mattbernsteinsycamore.com)

### Wed 26

#### POETRY and its ARTS @ California Historical Society

Continuing exhibition: The California Historical Society and the Poetry Center at San Francisco State University present a first-of-a-kind collaboration, *POETRY and its ARTS: Bay Area Interactions 1954-2004*, curated by Poetry Center Director Steve Dickison. The exhibition, which opened to the public on Dec. 11, 2004 and will occupy the gallery through April 16, 2005, displays nearly 100 original works — many never publicly exhibited — by more than 80 individuals. Featuring art made by poets; poet-artist collaborations; and works by artists in poets' circles. Highlight in the foyer on poet/visual artist Norma Cole's original installation "Collective Memory." Pieces by Kenneth Rexroth; Robert Duncan and Jess; Kenneth Patchen; Allen Ginsberg; Saburo Hasegawa; Michael McClure; Lawrence Ferlinghetti; Diane di Prima; Mary Oppen & George Oppen; David Meltzer; and many more. Dedicated to the extraordinary SF artist Jess (1923-2004), companion of the late poet Robert Duncan, pioneer of California assemblage art; and SF literary editor Donald M. Allen (1912-2004), editor of the seminal 1960 anthology *The New American Poetry*. \$3 gallery admission. Open Wed.-Sat., noon-4:30pm. CHS, 678 Mission St. (4 doors east of 3rd St., near Montgomery BART).

#### Gender Pirates @ El Rio

Lynnee Breedlove MC's "Gender Pirates" for all you freaks, punks, queers, transies, genderqueers, men, women, genderfuckers, multiples, femmes, intersexies, rockstars, shybobs, skaterz, strippers, activists, workers, artists, felons, and everyone else with entertainment by Katastrofe (homo-hop), The Transformers (drag), Burlesque-esque

(burlesque), Dyspecific, Eli Wise and Julia Serano (rock 'n' roll), and spoken word by Thea Hillman, Sherilyn Connelly, Meliza Banales and MK. Superstar DJs Sam Davis & Hegenony spin hip hop, queer '80s, punk rock, retro-electro and garbage. A benefit for United Genders of the Universe. \$5-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm doors; 9pm show. El Rio, 3158 Mission St. (at Precita).

### Thu 27

#### Sara Felder's Sightings

##### @ The Exploratorium

The Exploratorium presents Sara Felder's *Sightings*, a collection of works mixing new monologues and classic routines seen through the lens of Felder's insightful eye, sharp wit and Jewish lesbian juggling diva clown bride sensibility. A former member of SF's Pickle Family Circus, Felder has created a body of work, including radical circus theater and witty plays, that explores contemporary American life through the interplay of her many identities. Felder is best known for her acclaimed solo theater show, *June Bride*, about a traditional Jewish lesbian wedding, which has played in 30 cities. She also tours her newest solo work, *Shtik!*, about a turn-of-the-century vaudevilian. She recently finished her newest play, *Keeping Up With the Joans*, which tells the life stories of three Bay Area women in theatrical comedy: Joan Holden, Joan Mankin and Joan Schirle. Felder has held artist residencies at Headlands Center for the Arts, Intersection for the Arts, and the California Arts Council. 8:30pm. The Exploratorium's McLean Theater. Tickets to each event are included in the price of same-day admission to the Exploratorium (\$12). Info/tix: 415-561-0308; [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)

#### Tom Fowler

##### @ The Canvas Gallery

Opening reception/performance: Tom Fowler's *I'm sorry for everything I ever did*, a premature, mid, semi career, partial retrospective of about 5 years' worth of painting, drawing, sculpture and installation art. Includes the Text Series: Minor Obsessions, Driving to L.A., landscape paintings, Whipping Boy, and the 7 Deadly Sins. Live music by Fowler's band, Tastes Like Chicken. 6-10pm. Exhibit runs thru Feb. 15. The Canvas Gallery, 1200 Ninth Ave. (at Lincoln at Golden Gate Park). Info: [thecanvasgallery.com](http://thecanvasgallery.com); [tomfowlerart.com](http://tomfowlerart.com)

#### The Typographer's Dream @ The Thick House

Preview: Encore Theatre Company presents the West Coast Premiere production of Adam Bock's *The Typographer's Dream*, a smart new comedy in which a typographer, a geographer, and a stenographer obsess over their professions, their identities, and Canada over dinner and several bottles of wine. Bock's signature synecopation provides the rhythm for this hilarious story of borders, letters, fonts and friendships. Aimee Guillot, Jamie Jones, and Michael Shipley star, and Anne Kauffman directs. \$20; \$15 students. 8pm Thu.-Sat.; 5pm Sun. Previews: Jan. 27, 28, 29, 30. Opening Night: Jan. 31. Closes: Feb. 27. The Thick House, 1695 18th St. (btwn Arkansas & DeHar). Tix/info: 415-821-4849; [www.encoretheatrecompany.org](http://www.encoretheatrecompany.org)

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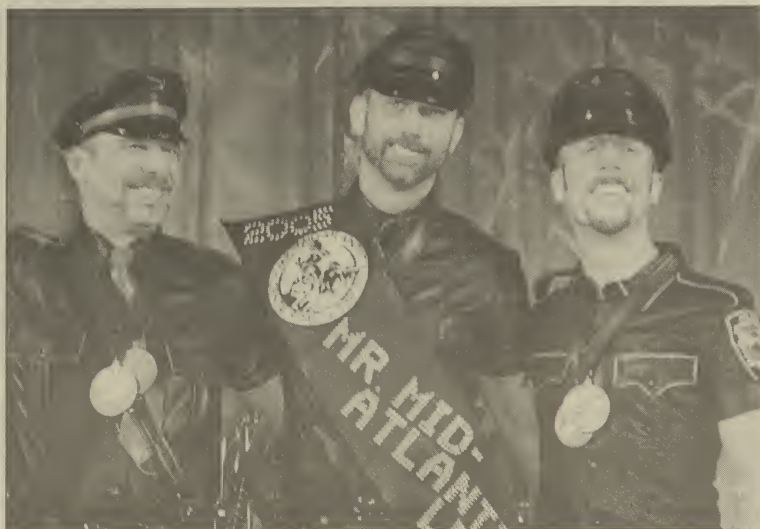
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The Mid-Atlantic Leather 2005 winners, from left, are Tom Mead, 2nd runner-up; Steven Ranger, the winner; and Matt Vertz, 1st runner-up. Ranger advances to compete at IML in May.

## Washington Plaza a hit

### Steve Ranger wins Mid-Atlantic 2005

by Mister Marcus

If ever a hotel staff was in tune with its guests, deserving a trophy as the best leather host in the nation, the Washington Plaza in Washington, D.C. wins it hands down! So first things first: before we get to the competition itself, let's take a good look at the overall environment for the weekend.

Patrick Grady's staff, including desk personnel, food service, bell men, housekeepers, bartenders and catering staff, are so used to hundreds of leather people on their turf that it's almost a yawn for them. The Congress Hotel in Chicago runs a close second, but the Washington Plaza made for a memorable experience during the Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend, the first big leather weekend of the year in the leather nation.

Hordes of leather men, bears, rubber fetishists, pups, tops, masters, slaves and a large contingent of leather women made the trek to the nation's capital last weekend, and anybody who was disappointed in any aspect of the weekend has only themselves to blame.

The Centaur Motorcycle Club's active members, associates and "friends" of the club take part

in producing this classy weekend, which sets them apart from other leather gatherings from coast to coast. Glen "Skip" Malaker, president of the CMC, has every reason to be proud of his group.

A well-stocked and diverse leather mart was open all weekend; package holders experienced no delays in getting registered; the restaurant and bar personnel went out of their way to keep everyone happy and full and the room service was better and faster than any drive-through chain in the nation. All this for a \$105 weekend package and \$149 a night accommodations? You bet.

The lobby of the Washington Plaza was jam packed with people as early as Friday night (and it stayed that way until the wee hours of every night thereafter) and the bootblacks were busy as bees keeping up with the demands. The weather wasn't all that cold this year and the rain and snow forecasts never materialized - so much for the accuracy of weather predictions.

There was the meet & greet bar hop on Friday night, the "leather cocktails" presentation of colors, new officers and intro of titleholders all at the magnificent Alma's Temple just two short blocks from all four host hotels.

Shuttle buses were provided for treks to the local bars and many private and semi-private parties. Everyone's dance cards were a matter of "which of these should I attend?"

#### The action begins

Sunday morning saw a long line of about 250 people signing up for MAL 2006 hotel rooms and weekend packages in the Diplomat Room. Scores of people from the U.S., Canada and Europe assured themselves space for next year's Leather Weekend with the Washington Plaza the host hotel.

Sunday afternoon, the leather brunch started at 1100 and ended at 1300, and then the contest was on. Frank Nowicki again took the MC duties in stride as the judges and contestants and bootblack contestants were introduced.

Seven men took part in the competition for the title: George Peet, Mike Natale, Matt Vertz, Steve Ranger, Chad Hanson, Robert Haas and Tom Mead, all mostly from the Northeast section of the U.S.

Also on hand were some two dozen IML 2005 candidates, and hordes of "wuzzies" — but more about them later.

The judges: Tug Taylor, Jason Hendrix, Lori Ellison, José Gutierrez, Matt Foreman, "Spo" Schwartz, and "Storm." They faced a formidable group of contenders.

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, January 20

First bare chest calendar contest for the 2006 calendar at the Powerhouse at 2200. Enter and win!

### Friday, January 21

Exiles of SF monthly meeting features Silva Tenenbein expounding on "Genitorture" at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930. Program begins at 2000 until 2200.

### Saturday, January 22

SF Defenders celebrate their 11th anniversary tonight at the Eagle Tavern from 1800 to 2100. Admittance by wearing club overlay or invitation in hand. Congratulations! Info: [www.sfdefenders.org](http://www.sfdefenders.org).

### Sunday, January 23

Tony Koester presents "A Day at the SF Eagle Tavern" from 1500 to 1800 to benefit Stop AIDS Project. \$8 food, beer, softies, floggings.

### Thursday, January 27

Second Bare Chest Calendar contest for the 2006 calendar at the Powerhouse tonight at 2200.

### Weekend, January 28-30

Mr. Chicago Leather 2005 contest at the Touché bar in the Windy City. Action from Friday to Sunday! Also Flesh & Fantasy Weekend in Dallas, Texas, choosing Mr. Texas Leather., So. Central Leather Sir/boy and community bootblack, for a \$25 weekend donation.

In Phoenix, it's the Mr. Padlock Leather Contest, but still no details from them.

### Saturday, January 29

Leather Town Meeting planning for SF Pride in June @ LGBT Center, Room 300 at 1400 hours.

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual (secret) location. Call 673-0452 for invite. Doors open from 2000 to 2200. Click on [www.the15association.org](http://www.the15association.org).



## PORN

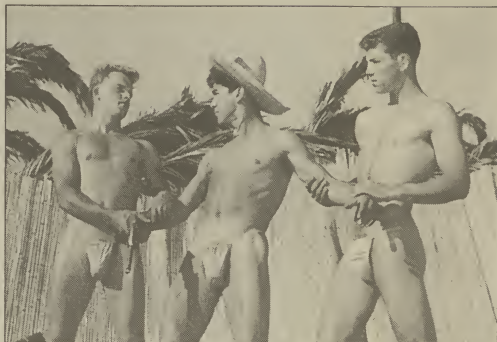
# Pose and play

## Athletic Model Guild is back!

by John F. Karr

My first actual review of the new year is about something old. Really old. It's Athletic Model Guild, back in action with their first release in 13 years. A release, incidentally, which makes AMG the world's oldest continuously operating gay male erotica company. Founded in 1945 by Bob Mizner, it nearly foundered after his death in 1992. Over a million images and 3,000 films had to be curated, and legal matters sorted out. That limbo has been traversed, and the company has a new and ambitious owner in Dennis Bell, who also owns Posingstrap.com and PhysiqueLibrary.com, two popular websites that specialize in vintage physique photography. His gung-ho program of AMG reissues means that this heritage of classic, campy and sometimes still effectively cock-tinling films will be seen for years to come in optimum contemporary condition.

The street trash and prison toughs of *Best Size #35* don't really do it for me, although a lot of guys



Featurette *Tijuana Bandit* is one of AMG's 12 Story Film Classics.

go for this trade. I know a guy who scours the Tenderloin, a six-pack of beer and some het porn in hand as lure for these seedy, just-paroled types. He calls them "Flowers of Asphalt," but they don't bloom for me. The scruffy guys in *BS#35* are authentically straight.

Which also seems to make them authentically grim. In these 24 previously unissued films from

the early '80s, they watch het porn as they thrash at their meat with stony-faced determination. Yeah, Mizner's off-screen promptings sometimes get them a little buddy-buddy. By and large, though, there's nothin' doing. None of them show any actual interest in cock. They're just working for their money. The films have been offered intact, however, with clumsy camerawork unexcused, as well as editing pops and glitches, and Mizner's miserable running commentary and instructions still on the soundtrack.

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### Karnal Knowledge

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

From where I was standing, it could not have been an easy job choosing the winners.

There was no disco diva for entertainment this year. Instead, Sandra Bernhard filled two segments of the afternoon with scathing indictments against the Bush family other politicians, and certain other entertainers and sang a couple of risqué ditties.

The reaction was mixed, of course. Certain people were offended by Bernhard's description of the leather community as being "freaks" with weird fetishes. Several leather women were so offended, they walked out. With no personal opinion myself, I can only say it was "different," and Ms. Bernhard got a lot of laughs.

### Moment of truth

After the entire mandatory judging appearances, with speeches, leather image and physique segments, the moment of truth was at hand for all who were competing. First, though, Tug Taylor and boot black "Spanky" each gave memorable 11-minute step down speeches.

Then to great applause, Boy Robi of New Jersey was named MAL bootblack, and she was ecstatic at the announcement.

That ball of fire, George Peet of Connecticut, was awarded the Brotherhood Award (aka Mr. Congeniality) by his fellow contestants. It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.

Tom Mead, also of New Jersey, was named the 2nd runner-up; Matt Vertz of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was named the 1st runner-up; and the winner of the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2005 title was and still is the startlingly handsome Steven Ranger. He now advances to compete at IML 2005 next May in Chicago.

The paparazzi surged forward at the announcement, flashing



Boy Robi, center, from New Jersey, was named Mid-Atlantic Bootblack at the contest in Washington, D.C. last weekend. He's joined by Alan Tunstall, left, Int'l. Boot Black 2004, and Ms. New Jersey Leather.

cameras, leading the way as the crowd whooped and hollered. A cheer went up as the sash and medallion were draped on his body, and well-wishers started lining up while the press took the photos for posterity.

The lobby of the host hotel exploded in applause when all the winners arrived back. Drinks were hoisted in appreciation.

Congratulations are in order, once more, to the Centaur Motorcycle for another scintillating kickoff for Leather Year 2005. See you all there next year?

### IML judges announced

On Saturday afternoon, David Rosenberg and Jon Krongaard hosted a press reception for IML where almost two dozen IML 2005 hopefuls were in attendance to learn that the following people will be their judges at IML 2005 in Chicago next May. They are: Outgoing IML 2004 Jason Hendrix, San Francisco author/lecturer Race Bannon, writer/lecturer Joseph Bean, Lynn Bouchard of Montreal, Connie Cox of New

York, Daniel Dumont of Brussels Belgium, boy Christian Henning of New York City, Chuck Rodocker, Touche' Bar owner, Chicago, and Mike Zuhl, producer International Sir/boy. The tally masters will be Tom Kelley of Morristown, NJ (former Mr. Int'l. Rubber) and Dennis McMahon, co-founder of C.L.A.W., Cleveland, Ohio.

It was also announced that the IML 2005 contest moves from the Congress Theatre to the Navy Pier, a magnificent venue on the shores of Lake Michigan. The Hyatt Regency is again the host hotel for IML 2005 weekend.

When the hubbub subsided, Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt and a gang of her "boys" presented a check for \$500 to Jon Krongaard of the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago — the proceeds from t-shirt sales at Leather Walk 2004 last September. Bravo!

It was a gratifying weekend in D.C. Now MAL 2005 is history. The leather "season" is going full blast and 2005 looks promising already and it's still only January! See ya soon! ▼

## Spice up Your Love Life!

■ Castro Gulch presents a **FREE SEX ED CLASS** conducted by local Sexperts Frank Strano and Jacque Siller.

■ **THIS CLASS IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC.** All Participants receive free sex gifts as well as a

**25% discount on all Adult DVD and Sex Toys**  
*Make Every Day Valentine's Day!*

**Tues. Feb 8, 7pm to 8:30pm**  
**CASTRO GULCH**  
2352 Market @ Castro  
415-934-8524



**S.T.D.**  
BY ORDER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Models: Dick Wolf & Arpad Miklos, Manhunt The Movie. photo: HOT HOUSE.com  
for more information: log on to [www.stguich.com/class](http://www.stguich.com/class)

Classes run in collaboration between Big A's and The Department of Public Health  
<http://www.dph.sf.ca.us>

## HAPPY HOUR COCKTAILS HALF-PRICE 'TIL 9PM

MILLER LITE PINTS \$2.00 ALL DAY  
SATURDAY-SUNDAY BEER BUST  
\$1.50 DOMESTIC BOTTLES  
FREE POOL ON MONDAYS

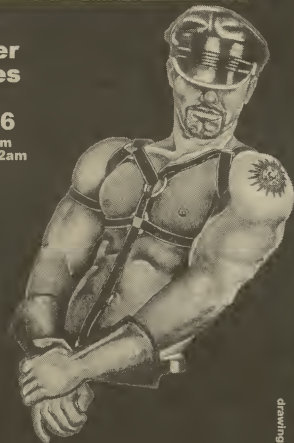


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## BLOW BUDDIES San Francisco

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Wed.  
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door 8-11pm  
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drawing © Ira Smith



Try new  
TRUVADA as  
part of your  
combination  
HIV therapy...

Just once

Make TRUVADA part of your daily routine. Two well-known medications, VIREAD and EMTRIVA, have been combined into 1 convenient pill that you take only once a day. Plus, new TRUVADA can be taken with or without food. Ask your doctor if new TRUVADA is right for you as part of your combination HIV therapy.

#### TREATMENT FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

  
**Truvada™**   
200 mg emtricitabine · tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg

**INDICATION:** TRUVADA is for use in combination with other anti-HIV agents to treat HIV infection in adults. TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA (emtricitabine) and VIREAD (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one tablet.

- EMTRIVA and VIREAD have been studied separately. Clinical studies with TRUVADA and EMTRIVA+VIREAD are ongoing.
- Since EMTRIVA and Epivir (3TC) are similar medicines, studies using VIREAD+3TC support the use of TRUVADA. Therefore, TRUVADA should be considered as an alternative to the combination of VIREAD+EMTRIVA or VIREAD+Epivir® for someone who would benefit from a once-a-day regimen.
- TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection. No studies show the effect of TRUVADA on the clinical progression of HIV. TRUVADA should not be used as part of a triple nucleoside regimen.

#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Lactic acidosis** (a buildup of acid in the blood) can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your medical professional right away** if you have nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness.





- **Serious liver problems** (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis), may occur. **Call your medical professional right away** if you have light colored stools, dark colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow.
- **Flare-ups of hepatitis B virus infection (HBV):** If you have HIV and HBV, your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA unless directed by your medical professional.
- **Kidney problems:** If you have had kidney problems or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your medical professional should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.
- **Bone changes:** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA causes damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, talk to your medical professional before taking TRUVADA.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV medicines. The most common side effects of TRUVADA when taken with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (spots and freckles) may also occur.

**Discuss all medicines you take with your medical professional and be aware:**

- TRUVADA should not be used with Combivir®, Emtriva, EpiVir, Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom™, Trizivir®, or Viread.
- Your medical professional may need to follow you more closely or adjust your therapy if you are taking Videx®, Videx EC®, Reyataz™ or Kaletra® with TRUVADA.

There is additional information about TRUVADA on the next page.



## Patient Information

### TRUVADA™ (tru-VAH-dah) Tablets

Generic name: emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate  
(em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU-mar-ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with TRUVADA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about TRUVADA.

#### What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

- Some people who have taken medicine like TRUVADA (nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis.**

- You feel very weak or tired.
- You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
- You have trouble breathing.
- You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
- You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
- You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
- You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.

- Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems.**

- Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- Your urine turns dark.
- Your bowel movements (stools) turn light or color.
- You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
- You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
- You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.

- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.

- TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection. Patients infected with both Hepatitis B Virus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who take TRUVADA need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow-up includes medical exams and blood tests to check for Hepatitis B Virus that could be getting worse. **Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.**

#### What is TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older. TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infection. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.**

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

#### Who should not take TRUVADA?

Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

#### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you use TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breast-feeding. You should not breast feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.
- have bone problems.
- have liver problems including HBV infection.
- Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:
  - COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA, EPVIR®, EPVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM™, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. TRUVADA should not be used with those medicines.
  - Drugs that contain didanosine (VIGEX®, VIGEX EC®). Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of VIGEX in your blood. **You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and VIGEX together.**
  - REYATAZ™ (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and REYATAZ or KALETRA together.

Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacist every time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription.

#### How should I take TRUVADA?

- Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.
- TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.
- If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. **Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.** Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.**
- When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.
- If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

#### What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

- Do not breast-feed. See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"
- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection since TRUVADA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
  - Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
  - Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
  - Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- COMBIVIR, EMTRIVA, EPVIR, EPVIR-HBV, EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or VIREAD. TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.

#### What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"):

- Lactic acidosis (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- "Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.
- Kidney problems. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.
- Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones). It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are: dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is not complete at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

#### How do I store TRUVADA?

- Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children.
- Store at room temperature up to 25°C (77°F).
- Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw away medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

#### General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA that is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at [www.TRUVADA.com](http://www.TRUVADA.com).

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

#### What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active Ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir DF

Inactive Ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opadly II Light Blue Y-30-10671-A containing FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide and triacetin.

#### Rx Only

August 2004

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## FILM

# Noir city, week 2

Film Noir continues at the Balboa Theatre

by Tavo Amador

Edie Muller's superb selection of Manhattan and Los Angeles-set entries in this year's Film Noir Festival continues at the Balboa Theatre with some excellent examples of the genre.

Otto Preminger's *Where the Sidewalk Ends* ('50) reunites his leads from *Laura* ('44), but puts them in a different Manhattan from the one they peopled in that elegant, chic mystery. This time, Dana Andrews is an embittered cop who inadvertently kills an innocent suspect, then tries to pin the rap on a gangster. Beautiful, warm Gene Tierney is the dead man's widow. Andrews understandably falls for her. Screenplay by Ben Hecht. In *The Prowler* ('51), housewife Evelyn Keyes reports a Peeping Tom to the police. Cop Van Heflin likes the woman and her way of life, but her husband complicates matters. (1/20)

At 711 *Ocean Drive* ('50), LA telephone repairman Edmond O'Brien discovers that knowledge is power. Once he learns about a West Coast gambling empire, he uses his technical skills to make himself a kingpin. With Joanne Dru. John Garfield is riveting while facing a *Force of Evil* ('48). He's a morally ambiguous hood involved in the numbers racket. Manhattan has rarely looked so

bleak, nor has the distinction between business and crime seemed so blurred. Director Abraham Polonsky would soon be blacklisted and did not helm another movie for 21 years. With sleazy Thomas Gomez and classic noir dame Marie Windsor. (1/21)

Detective Mark Stevens finds himself in *The Dark Corner* ('46) of Manhattan while investigating suave, dangerous Clifton Webb, playing a variation on his Waldo Lydecker from *Laura*. Pretty Lucille Ball, years before television stardom, is Stevens' smart, trustworthy Gal Friday. With ox-like William Bendix. Smoothly directed by Henry Hathaway. Musical star Dick Powell remade his image as Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe discovering *Murder, My Sweet* ('44), and resurrected his career. Claire Trevor is the treacherous blonde. Taut direction by Edward Dmytryk. Unemployed vet Frank Lovejoy is seduced into entering the underworld by hunky Lloyd Bridges in the rarely seen *Try and Get Me* ('50), and soon discovers crime doesn't pay. (Shown at 11:30 p.m., with a separate admission.) (1/22)

## Mature content

Noir villains are invariably more interesting than heroes, and never more so than in Henry Hathaway's influential *Kiss of Death* ('47). Jailbird Victor Mature



Farley Granger at *The Edge of Doom*.

is released to be a stoolie for the cops. They're after Tommy Udo — Richard Widmark, in his film debut. Widmark's grinning killer, who enjoys pushing a wheelchair-bound old lady down a flight of stairs, created a sensation and remains unnerving. Gene Nelson, normally a musical star, plays a released felon trying to go straight in *Crime Wave* ('54). It won't be easy. With Sterling Hayden, Phyllis Kirk, and Charles Bronson (billed as Burchinsky). Directed by Andre de Toth, one-time husband of noir queen Veronica Lake. (1/23)

Noir directors often used the thriller form to explore social is-

ues, and in *The Crimson Kimono* ('59), Samuel Fuller looks at racism and the post-WWII Neisei experience in America. Two cops investigating a murder fall for the same woman. One of them is handsome James Shigeta, and his longing for a "white" woman is moving. In *Pick Up on South Street* ('52), Fuller has a thief get himself into lots of trouble by lifting a microfilm from the mistress of a Communist spy. The view of the gritty, scary part of New York is memorable. With Richard Widmark, Jean Peters (before she became Mrs. Howard Hughes), and the great Thelma Ritter, in an unforgettable, Oscar-nominated performance. (1/24)



Dick Powell remade his image.

Gorgeous Farley Granger stands at *The Edge of Doom* ('50), as a slum youth who kills a priest (Dana Andrews) when the church refuses to give his mother a grand funeral. Pursued by the cops and his own conscience, he seeks refuge in a harsh New York. Preview audiences found this film too bleak, so producer Samuel Goldwyn added a prologue and epilogue to soften its effects. When insurance agent Dick Powell gets

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## Did he do the right thing?

'On the Waterfront' plays the Castro

by Tavo Amador

Accept a corrupt system, keep quiet, and survive. Challenge it, you'll starve or be killed. This is the premise of Elia Kazan's compelling *On the Waterfront* ('54), playing the Castro Theatre from January 24-27. It begins with longshoreman Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) yelling up from the street to his friend Joey, saying he wants to meet him on the roof of a New York City apartment building. Joey agrees, and moments later, he's thrown off the roof, dying on impact. Terry, an ex-prizefighter, insists he thought union bosses were just going "to lean on him."

Terry's elegant older brother, Charlie (a tense Rod Steiger), is a key assistant to Johnny Friendly (a frightening Lee J. Cobb), who controls hiring, firing, and graft on the docks. They dismiss Terry's concerns, but when he meets Joey's sister Edie (Eva Marie Saint), things become complicated. Joey had been challenging the system. Galvanized by Edie's rage, parish priest Father Barry (Karl Malden) holds a meeting to get the workers to talk. Charlie tells Terry to attend and report back. But union thugs beat up the attendees. Another man agrees to talk to officials, but he "accidentally" dies while working. As Terry and Edie fall in love, his anxiety grows. When he finally tells her about his inadvertent involvement in Joey's death, she wants to end the relationship.

In the meantime, an investigator (Leif Erickson) is looking into the corruption on behalf of a gov-



Marlon Brando plays Terry Malloy: tough but tender, shrewd, sensitive.

ernment committee. He serves Terry a subpoena. Realizing the only way he will get Edie back is to tell the truth, Terry agrees to testify. The consequences are grim, but ultimately just.

Brando's performance is legendary and much parodied. To see

it 50 years later is to be amazed by its freshness, by his astonishing blend of toughness, tenderness, shrewdness, and inarticulate sensitivity. The famous scene in the car with Steiger, in which Terry tells Charlie that he should have

page 41 ►



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# Windows on the Castro

## Twin Peaks Tavern's place in gay history

by Mike Sher and  
Mark des Jardins

A small step for a bar, and a giant step for the gay community. Peggy and Mary Ellen (last names withheld at their request) had just taken over the Twin Peaks Tavern, 401 Castro at 17th Street, in 1972. A straight Irish bar for a couple of decades before, its windows were painted black. Virtually all gay bars at the time had either no windows, or you weren't able to see the people in the bar from the street. The times were like that back then — people were more in the closet, afraid to

let the world know they were gay. Times were changing, however, and Peggy and Mary Ellen knew it. The Castro, once a family district, was increasingly becoming home for gays moving to San Francisco from every corner of the country. Castro lifestyles were becoming more open, and gays were becoming more willing to come out of the closet and stand up for their rights, their freedoms, their dignity.

Peggy and Mary Ellen decided that the three large windows facing Castro Street, some 12 feet high and 7 feet wide, would from that time on be clear glass. The gay community was saying: We're here, we're proud, and we're gay! With that one small step, the gay community began to come out, and insist that there be acceptance for gays.

We talked with the Twin Peaks

Tavern's current owners, Jeff Green and George Roehm. We looked at the bar's columned back mirrors. Long, paisley banquettes and chairs are scattered about invitingly, and toward the back of the bar, small semi-private tables await twosomes. Tiffany lamps give a period look. Above is a loft for the occasional overflow or private party of a dozen or more.

Their jukebox has a collection of some 3,000 CDs, and they also get music from the Internet. The music is from the '50s, '60s and '70s, playing to an older, more stately crowd. They're up-to-date with their website, however: [www.twinpeakstavern.com](http://www.twinpeakstavern.com).

The large windows that look out on Castro Street command our attention and hold our interest. Across the street is Harvey Milk Plaza, with its big, multicolored gay flag. Our bartender, Steven (last name withheld at his request), a Peaks veteran of some 11 years, tells us about the annual Castro Street Fair. He tells us of the annual candlelight march that commemorates the deaths of Harvey Milk and George Moscone. What strikes us, looking through those windows, is both young and older gays, every race, some with arms intertwined, shoulder to shoulder, smiling. Here, through the windows of the Twin Peaks, the success of the gay liberation movement seems apparent.

Jeff and George started as bartenders at the Twin Peaks Tavern and worked their way up. They've

owned the place now for nearly a year and a half. Peggy and Mary Ellen moved on to a number of well-known places, like the Golden Cask in the Haight, Charpe's on Gough, and Gilmore's at California and Hyde (now the Hyde Out). They subsequently retired.

The Twin Peaks' signature drink is an Irish Coffee with Bushmill's, just \$4.75. Longtime night bartender Dennis Franck developed what many believe to be the best Bloody Mary in town. He jealously guards the recipe. No happy hour here, but prices are moderate.

There are special spreads for Christmas, and the bar has a long-standing charitable tradition. The new owners showed us a letter from the AIDS Emergency Fund thanking them for recently raising over \$700.

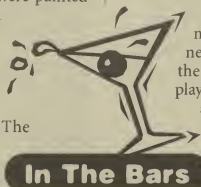
Twin Peaks Tavern is a good place to sit, relax, converse and watch the new Castro go by. But



From the windows of the Twin Peaks Tavern, gay liberation lives on.

think also of that bold step by Peggy and Mary Ellen, a step that opened their windows to the world, and helped gays take their place in San Francisco. ▼

**Twin Peaks Tavern, 401 Castro St., SF. (415) 864-9470. Open 8 a.m.-2 a.m., Thur. through Sun.; Noon to 2 a.m., Mon. to Wed.**



## Karr on Porn

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So it all boils down to the time, the place and the look giving the movies historic and sociologic interest. They also provide incontrovertible proof that guys used to have hair on their balls. But these are lackluster events. To me, they're certainly less sexy than Mizner's sexless but insinuating movies of the '50s and '60s.

These have been compiled in *Story Film Classics*, 12 featurettes spanning the era that took AMG from '50s cover-up, with those hide-so-little, promise-so-much posing straps, to the complete uncovering of the '70s. There's imagination and energy in these movies, a yearning for sex that disappeared when actual sex was finally allowed to be shown on-screen, and AMG's movies became prosaic.

### Gymnast dandy

The set begins with the posing routines of two well-built guys, cute 'n' cocky Italian gymnast Joe Napolie (watch his basket when he does handstands!) and the All-American blond Steve Buono (thrill to his suavely contoured muscles, and a posing strap that lets the goods show right through!). Then, legendary Steve Wengry plays around at the beach. Not as cut as Napolie, or as



Cleopatra and the Blond Slave: wrestling with the Captain of the Guard.

built as Buono, he eclipses both. He's just the It Boy. Three delicious films. Some of the film stock (okay, a lot) shows its age. But there's lovely Philip Glass pastiche music composed by Hank Toet. It's slightly melancholic, yet vastly preferable to what one usually hears. It releases, instead of insists on, the movie's high spirits and simple pleasure.

Then we get to the first story-film, the archetypal *Tijuana Bandit*. Two lads vacationing in Tijuana are held up by a very *mal hombre*. They are stripped of their clothes at gunpoint. Surprise! They pull down their underwear only to reveal posing straps. They overcome Señor Mal Hombre, and soon enough he reveals the strap under his briefs. Ah, fashion is so international. Now that they're practically nude, what? Well, just like *I Love Lucy*, where no matter what the set-up, hilarity ensues, in an AMG movie, wrestling ensues. This was unusually erotic in the context of its day: all that basket thrust about, all that flesh on flesh and straining bodies. It's so endearingly innocent. That, in itself, is arousing. If only today's movies would halt their rush-to-fuck with this sort of erotic foreplay.

*Jailhouse Rumble* takes us to the prison yard, where a bunch of naked prisoners are taking the sun, belly down. The Warden has thoughtfully issued posing straps to another three, and wrestling ensues. In *Revenge of the Statues*, it's only natural that wrestling ensues when the sculptures in the AMG Museum come to life to overcome break-in thieves. My favorite is *Cleopatra and the Blond Slave*. Well, isn't porcelain-

skinned and chiseled Craig Lancourt just the dish? Disdainful Cleo throws him to the Captain of the Guard, and wrestling ensues.

Now, if you only watch a few of these at a time, their magic holds. And Mizner's cunning: when guys are facing upstage, they don't have their posing straps on. So we can be titillated by *The Very Thought of Nudity*. Outrageous! Miss Thing always says *un peu du* knowledge goes *tres tres far*. And is it just me, or do the films become more obvious as they become more contemporary? The bulge and the beauty of two very cute blondes in a latter-day, full-color routine seem more obviously displayed. Particularly the bulge. Or maybe the cameraman just got lucky. Bruce Adams and Bill Nolan are pips, incipient bodybuilders eager to squirm all over each other when wrestling ensues. The last, most recent movie must have made jaws drop so long ago when its two completely naked teen bodybuilders did calisthenics, and their wienies wagged in breathless slo-mo. Even today, it's a major thrill. And this is where we leave off, when Mizner's movies began to be all about dick. The camaraderie, the cavorting, the simple innocence were soon all gone.

Wrestling Fan Alert! Like the cumshot review feature of many DVDs, this one has a *Wrestle Edit* that strings all the wrestling segments end to end. And on both DVDs, there are copious, I mean hundreds of model photographs and film stills in the galleries, along with performer bios. Bang for the buck. Daddy, when will you show me another *Story Film Classic*? [www.athleticmodelguild.com](http://www.athleticmodelguild.com) ▼



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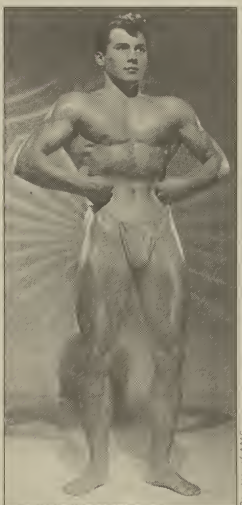
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The legendary Steve Wengry



## ARTS

## Out There

◀ page 26

legends, religious icons and Western literature. That spells h-o-m-o-erotic. OT especially likes the portraits of Poseidon and of characters from *The Tempest*.

In his "Insights" on the works in the exhibition, Swyers writes about the Shakespeare, "The complexity of relationships between men is thoroughly investigated in this play: brother to brother, friend to friend, partner to partner, master to servant."

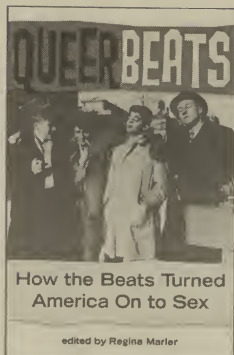
On Alexander the Great, also portrayed here: "One of the few real men whose life takes on mythic proportions. It's amazing to me how the human spirit always dissolves into the personality it becomes — this man conquering cities and creating Alexandrias all over the world."

The exhibit will run through Feb. 28 in Gallery at the Geary (415 Geary St.), which is open one-half-hour prior to curtain and by appointment. Info: (415) 749-2ACT.

## Beat niche

Here's an event for the queer beatnik beat: SF-based writer Regina Marler, editor of *Queer Beats*, *How the Beats Turned America On to Sex* (Cleis), along with Bay Area poets Catherine French, Daphne Gottlieb, Thea Hillman, Kevin Killian, Kirk Read, and Joël Tan, will discuss the Beat writers and their continuing influence, recite Beat poems, and read new work of their own on Sunday, February 6, 2 p.m. at the San Francisco Public Library [SFPL], 100 Larkin St. in SE.

*Queer Beats*, reviewed in these pages when the hardback appeared, is now out in a nifty



\$16.95 trade paperback. The book traces the queer pulse that throbs throughout the Beats' writings — William S. Burroughs' *Naked Lunch*, Allen Ginsberg's boy-loving sex poems, Jack Kerouac's confession in a letter to Neal Cassidy that, despite erotic encounters with Ginsberg and Gore Vidal, "Posterity will laugh at me if it thinks I was queer."

The book includes fiction, letters, and poetry by Ginsberg, Kerouac, Burroughs, Diane di Prima, Harold Norse, Herbert Huncke, Elise Cowen, Vidal, Norman Mailer, and others, plus a previously unpublished memoir by poet John Giorno.

The reading is sponsored by the James C. Hormel Center of the SFPL and the Friends of the SFPL. For more info, call (415) 557-4277 or go to [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org).

Dept. of This Just In: Porn director and performer Gino Colbert will be at the Castro Theatre to do a Q&A following the 7 p.m. shows of *Ronnie Larsen's Shooting Porn: The Movie*, Fri. & Sat., Jan. 21 & 22. ▼

## Noir Fest

◀ page 39

involved with model Elizabeth Scott, it becomes a Southern California *Pitfall* ('48). Powell's rival for Scott is Raymond Burr, a decade before *Perry Mason*. Scott was Paramount's answer to Lauren Bacall at Warner's, but her career was cut short in the '50s when *Confidential* magazine hinted she was a lesbian. (1/25)

Humphrey Bogart is in *A Lonely Place* ('50), and neighbor Gloria Grahame wonders if he's a murderer. As Hollywood screen-

writer Dixon Steele, Bogart suggests madness and fury. Grahame, normally the most self-assured of blondes, is drawn to him but understandably scared. Directed by Nicholas Ray. In *I Wake Up Screaming* ('42), Betty Grable, normally a musical star, finds her sister (Carole Landis) murdered. Sis' boyfriend, Broadway producer Victor Mature, is the prime suspect. With the repellent Laird Craig and weird Elisha Cook, Jr., stealing the movie. Grable would quickly go back to songs and dances. Landis committed suicide, reportedly after being dumped by Rex Harrison. (1/26) ▼

## Waterfront

◀ page 39

looked out for him, remains heartbreaking. Cobb, Steiger, and Saint were never more compelling. Malden sometimes seems a bit sanctimonious, but he succeeds in making religion a force for justice independent of doctrine.

## Naming names

*Waterfront* was a huge, deserved success, winning eight Oscars, including Best Picture, Director, Actor (Brando), Supporting Actress (Saint), and Writing (Budd Schulberg). Made at the time of the notorious communist witchhunts spearheaded by Wisconsin Senator Joe McCarthy and the right-wing House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), the film makes naming names heroic and courageous. In this, Kazan transformed his own life into art. The man who had helped revolutionize the American theatre by directing the original productions of *Death of a*

*Salesman* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* found himself being investigated as a communist.

In '52, Kazan testified twice before HUAC, admitting that 20 years earlier he had joined the Communist Party and, during his second appearance, he provided names of those with whom he had associated. Among those was playwright Clifford Odets (*Golden Boy*, *Clash by Night*). While many of his colleagues were blacklisted and unable to earn a living, Kazan continued making important, acclaimed films, notably *East of Eden* ('55) which made a star of James Dean, *Baby Doll* ('56), and *Splendor in the Grass* ('61), launching Warren Beatty's movie career. In '99, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences gave him an Honorary Oscar, which reignited the controversy. But Kazan remained unrepentant, insisting he did the right thing. His lack of remorse was shameful and forever clouds his exceptional artistic legacy. If *Waterfront* represents his view of what he did, then his self-deluded hypocrisy is shocking. ▼

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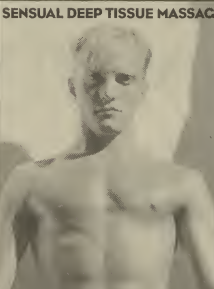


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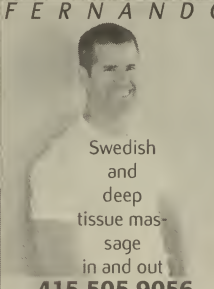
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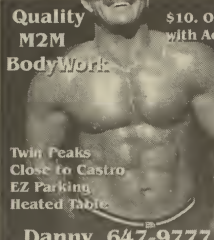
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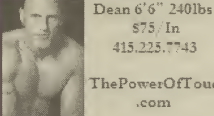
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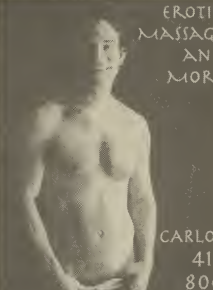
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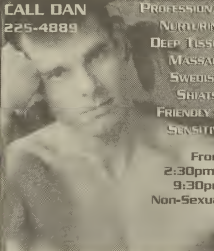
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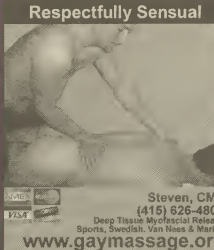
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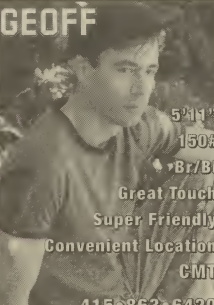
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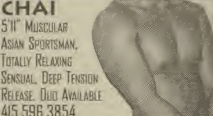
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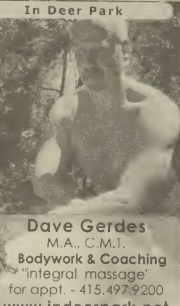
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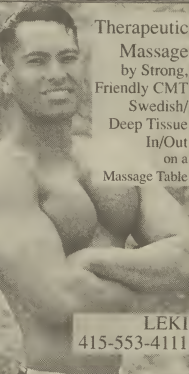
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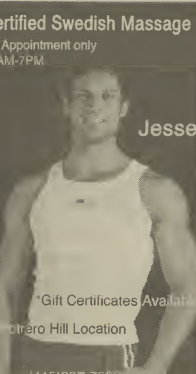
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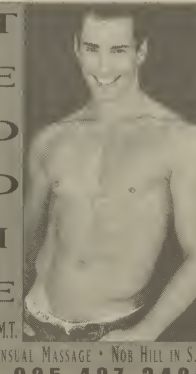
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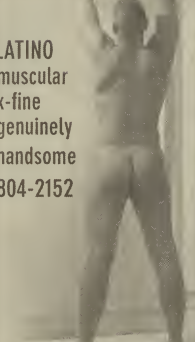


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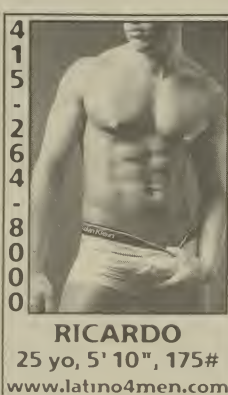
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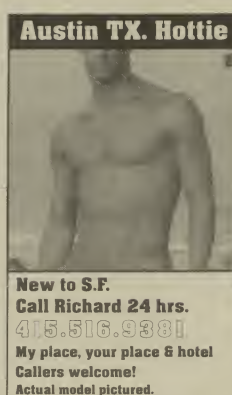
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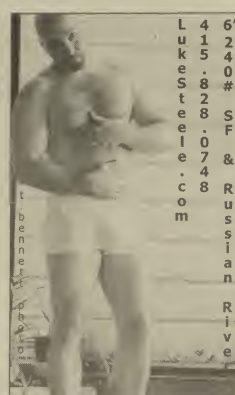
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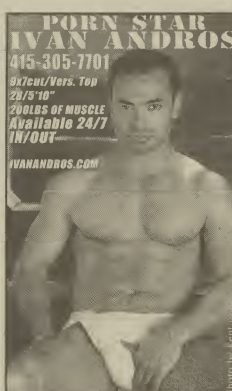
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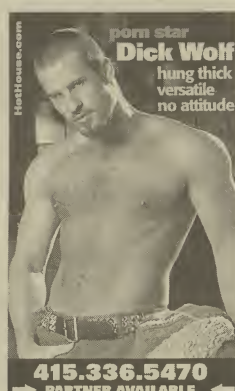


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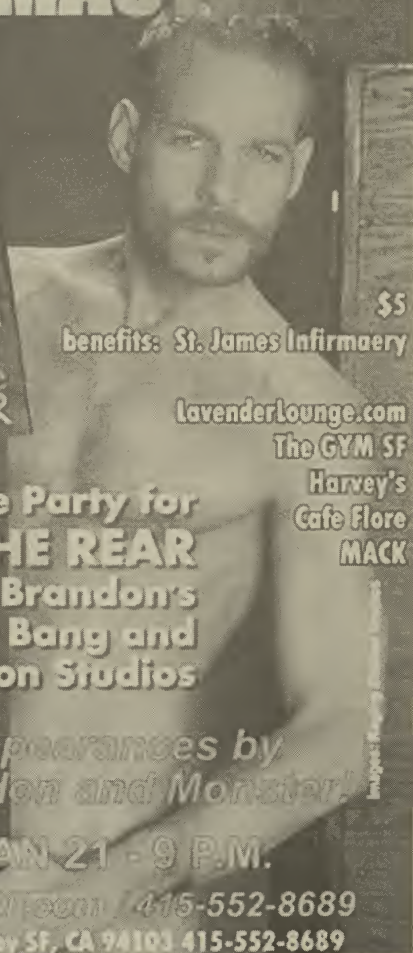
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Attractive GWM HIV- age 59, 5'10" easy-going, educated, genuine, interested in the arts, theater, travel, and the outdoors seeks HIV-, age 30-40s, politically liberal, self-accepting, out, and happy to be gay. Seeking a quiet, thoughtful guy who leans toward the submissive side in a relationship. Visit us online today and see Ad Code 2750. (FREE to respond)  
[Gaymillionairesclub.com](http://Gaymillionairesclub.com)

# BAR TALK

**1.900.226.7036** Only \$1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

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### PARTING GLANCES

New Years Day @ Cafe Flor  
I got up and offered you my table. You said Happy New Year. Perhaps I should have had another cup of coffee?  
☎ 71467

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Medium Build Versatile Latin  
40 yrs. 5'7"/155 HIV+ healthy, honest, sensitive looking 4 friend 25/45 yrs. versatile, slim body to medium, any race. You will be love, what you get!  
☎ 71460

Cool Old Stud ISO Badass Butto  
Always horny, healthy 69yo, 5'6", 160#, Top (not versatile) needs B/G W masculinity for ass play + Friend +??  
☎ 71454

Seeking Shave Down and J/O Fun  
SWGM 5'11", 175lbs, Masculine and Fit seeking buddy for J/O, Mirrors, Photo Fun and shave down. Black guys a plus. I'm very uninhibited and love butt play and to fuck.  
☎ 71455

### SEEKING ADVENTURE

Very Good Looking Bottom Latino  
in his 30's ISO Bi or Gay top, handsome, clean, serious, healthy 25-45yo guys for friendship and fun. Any race and a big tool.  
☎ 71470

Spank Your Butt  
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass  
☎ 71471

Discreet, Sincere, Retired  
Gentleman near downtown Oakland seeking similar men fr daytime play. I'm 50, 5'9", 180, balding, Black. All races welcome. Phone required. Serious only. ☎ 71462

Whip Mate Wanted  
GWM, 60s, bondage lover seeks suspension rack, whip/paddle and oral frenks. Top, bottom or switch, HIV- and serious. Limits. My place in Delta (707) 374-0071 or (951) 963-5368  
☎ 71469

Onyx 10 inch Dick  
Let's fuck onyx is waiting 10 inch dick thick in search of: horny, gorgeous guys  
☎ 71465

Tall and Thin Top  
Looking for hungry holes. SF and East Bay.  
☎ 71464

ISO Stroking Buddy  
Mature WM into uninhibited, extended jo and self-pleasuring seeks same for wallowing together (physical contact not necessary) in supercharged male energy. Toys, etc. Ok  
☎ 71468

ISO Sex Partner Man to Man  
To share erotic massage, j/o, oral, porn. No drugs. Poppers and mild alcohol Ok.  
☎ 71466

### FETISHES

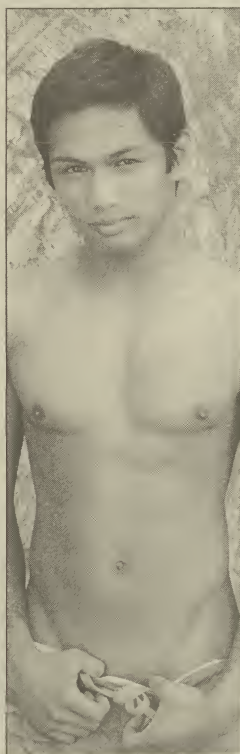
2005 Drag Queens Ravish Oohs  
Me Mr. Jxxx, st, Iso Drag-Queens 21-40 only for 69 all day. French-Greek-No drugs, just whoopee, black nylons, g-strings, black dress.  
☎ 71463

Compassionate Cocksuckerissimo!  
Having maximized your load(s) go on to A) licking sweat off balls B) Beating amazingly shit free ass C) Gulping piss - you'll want me back (and front!)  
☎ 71456

Famous Catfood Hooked Cats ...  
Just as the secret ingredient in my cocksucking will hook your meat so you don't want any other cocksucker 24/7!  
☎ 71457

Why I Suck Straight Guys Only:  
Gay guys all think they're world's best cocksuckers when actually I am. So show me your girlfriend's photo/get royally sucked off! (I'm cum addict)  
☎ 71458

My Most Memorable Sex Ever  
Out back/Steamworks sucking 9-inch when bzzzt bzzzt bzzzt three (3) spurts of hot creme de la creme!  
☎ 71459



# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

### CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐  
Seeking Relationship ☐  
Seeking Adventure ☐  
Lesbian ☐  
Fetishes ☐  
Couples ☐  
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



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Ad #5102.

E18

## ADULT JOBS OFFERED

## SOMA SEX CLUB

Looking 4 a few good men. Apply  
w/resume @ 1285 Folsom St. After  
6pm P/T-weekends Req.

E04

## MODEL NEEDED

Online ezine needs models for  
bondage pictures and videos. Top  
dollar paid. Easy shoots. Be  
yng/gl/musc.

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E03

## OLDER MEN WANTED

4 XXX videos and modeling. Only  
55+ men. Good pay call mark  
626 473-2765 or  
modelsf@older4me.com

E06

## FACTORY VIDEO

You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex  
& showing off + Making \$\$\$. Call now  
for an interview. Also looking for bears.  
Call us at 415-777-9070.  
www.factoryvideos.com

E03

## XXX WEB

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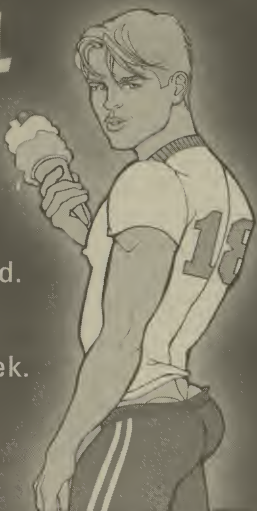
E06



## XXX WEB

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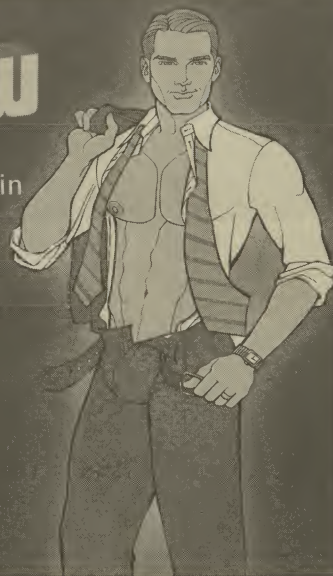
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